

MEDICATIONS FOR ACUTE VOMITING: DOGS & CATS

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DRUG NAME (alpha order)	CLASSIFICATION	USE	DOSE (for cats and dogs unless otherwise noted)
Chlorpromazine	Alpha-2 adrenergic antagonist D2 dopaminergic antagonist H1 histaminergic antagonist M1 muscarinic cholinergic antagonist	Antiemetic	0.2–0.4 mg/kg SC or IM Q 8 H
Cisapride	5-HT ₄ serotonergic agonist	Prokinetic agent	0.5–1 mg/kg PO Q 8 H or 1–1.5 mg/kg PO Q 12 H or Up to 3 mg/kg divided into equal doses based on number of daily feedings; administered 30 min before each feeding
Dimenhydrinate	H1 histaminergic antagonist	Antiemetic	4–8 mg/kg PO Q 8 H
Diphenhydramine	H1 histaminergic antagonist	Antiemetic	2–4 mg/kg PO or IM Q 8 H
Dolasetron	5-HT ₃ serotonergic antagonist	Antiemetic	0.5–1 mg/kg PO or IV Q 12 H or 30 min before chemotherapy
Domperidone	D2 dopaminergic antagonist	Antiemetic Increases gastroesophageal sphincter tone	0.05–0.1 mg/kg PO Q 12–24 H*
Erythromycin	Motilin agonist	Prokinetic agent	0.5–1 mg/kg PO or IV Q 8 H (dogs)
Famotidine	Histamine H ₂ receptor antagonist	Gastroprotective agent	0.5–1 mg/kg IV or PO Q 12–24 H
Maropitant	NK1 receptor antagonist	Antiemetic Visceral analgesic	1 mg/kg SC or IV Q 24 H; administer SC injection cold to reduce pain 2 mg/kg PO (dogs) and 1 mg/kg PO (cats) 8 mg/kg PO for motion sickness (dogs)
Metoclopramide	D2 dopaminergic antagonist 5-HT ₃ serotonergic antagonist 5-HT ₄ serotonergic agonist	Antiemetic** Prokinetic agent Increases gastroesophageal sphincter tone	0.2–0.5 mg/kg PO, SC, or IM Q 8 H 1–2 mg/kg/day CRI
Nizatidine	Cholinesterase inhibitor Histamine H ₂ receptor antagonist	Gastroprotective agent Prokinetic agent	2.5–5 mg/kg PO Q 12 H
Omeprazole	Proton pump inhibitor	Gastroprotective agent	0.7 mg/kg PO Q 24 H
Ondansetron	5-HT ₃ serotonergic antagonist	Antiemetic	0.5 mg/kg PO or IV Q 12–24 H or 30 min before chemotherapy Doses up to 1 mg/kg IV Q 12–24 H are occasionally needed
Pantoprazole	Proton pump inhibitor	Gastroprotective agent	0.7–1 mg/kg PO or IV Q 24 H
Prochlorperazine	Alpha-2 adrenergic antagonist D2 dopaminergic antagonist H1 histaminergic antagonist M1 muscarinic cholinergic antagonist	Antiemetic	0.5 mg/kg SC, IM, or suppository Q 8 H
Ranitidine	Histamine H ₂ receptor antagonist	Gastroprotective agent Prokinetic agent	1–2 mg/kg PO Q 12 H
Scopolamine or Hyoscine	M1 muscarinic cholinergic antagonist	Antiemetic	0.03 mg/kg SC or IM Q 6 H
Sucralfate	Sucrose sulfate-aluminum complex	Cytoprotective agent	0.25–1 g PO Q 8–12 H
Yohimbine	Alpha-2 adrenergic antagonist	Antiemetic	0.25–0.5 mg/kg SC or IM Q 12 H

Note: Mirtazapine, commonly used as an appetite stimulant, most likely also has an antiemetic effect based on data from human studies.

* There is scant clinical experience with this drug in dogs and cats

** Useful in dogs; questionable efficacy in cats