



O A K B A Y A N I M A L H O S P I T A L

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BUSPIRONE USE IN CATS

Buspirone (trade name Buspar) is an antidepressant drug prescribed by physicians; it is a human drug, not a veterinary. It has been shown to be effective in a significant number of cats with elimination behavior problems and other abnormalities related to behavior.

What is the success rate?

Its success rate is not 100% but, for the intended purpose, it has been shown to be more effective than many of the other drugs.

Are there any side-effects?

It has been used for several years in cats, and no side-effects have been noted.

How is it dosed?

The following outline should be followed. If the sequence is not clear, please call for further instructions.

- 1.** Give 5 mg (1 tablet) twice daily for 1 week
 - a.** If there is no response, give 7.5 mg (1 1.5 tablets) twice daily for one week
 - 1) If there is no response, discontinue buspirone.
 - 2) If there is good response, give 5 mg twice daily for 8 weeks.
 - b.** If there is good response, give 5 mg twice daily for 8 weeks.
- 2.** If a relapse occurs after successful therapy, resume buspirone at a dose of 5 - 7.5 mg twice daily and continue for 6-12 months.