CEG FORMULARY:
Cardiac Medications for Cats

CARDIAC EDUCATION group

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MEDICATION [Drug Class]	PREPARATIONS	TYPICAL DOSAGE	ADMINISTRATION NOTES & POTENTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS
Alteplase [Tissue plasminogen activator]	For injection: 2 mg vials	1 mg/kg IV over 1 hr (max 6 mg)	• Used in the acute management of ATE within 4-6 h • May increase the risk for bleeding and rapid dissolution of blood clot leading to reperfusion injury. • During administration, antiplatelet and anticoagulant treatments are generally withheld
Apixaban [factor Xa inhibitor - antithrombotic]	Tablets: 2.5, 5 mg	PO: 0.625 mg to 1.25 mg **per cat**, q12h	• Higher dosages are often used for the first 3 to 7 days for animals with active thrombosis, then lowered to a maintenance dosage for chronic preventative therapy
Aspirin [NSAID/antithrombotic]	Tablet: 81 mg	PO: ¼ of an 81 mg tablet, **per cat**, q2-3 days	• Recommended use as an adjunctive treatment with clopidogrel or anticoagulant treatment. • May cause GI signs especially with higher doses.
Buprenorphine [opioid/analgesic]	For injection: 0.3 mg/ml	Parenteral: 5-10µg/kg IV/ IM/SC PO (buccal mucosa): 0.2-0.3 mls of injectable preparation **per cat**	• Useful in the management of pain during a thromboembolic event • Oral administration at home can be used for continued management of pain or emergency treatment of pain associated with new onset thrombosis or recurrent thrombosis
Clopidogrel [anti-platelet]	Tablet: 75 mg	PO: 18.75 mg **per cat**, q24h	• Higher dose of 37.5 or 75 mg can be given once for first dose in cat with active thrombosis. • Bitterness of preparation may cause ptyalism in some patients
Fentanyl [opioid analgesic]	For injection: 50 µg/ml 5ml vial	2 µg/kg as initial bolus, followed by 2-5 µg /kg/hr	• Useful in the acute management of pain during thromboembolic event • Dose can be weaned gradually as cat's pain resolves as limb function improves
Gabapentin [anxiolytic/ analgesic]	Capsules: 100, 300, 400 mg	PO: 50 to 200 mg **per cat** q 8-12 hr	• Useful for the continued management of pain in the home environment. •Also useful for fearful cats prior to cardiac evaluation • Advise client that the cat may be sedate for 12hrs after administration • Also useful prior to vet visit. Can give the night before and 2 hr prior to vet visit.

Heparin Unfractionated [anticoagulant]	For injection: 1,000, 5,000, 10,000 IU/ml	Parenteral: 150-300 IU/kg SC q8h CRI: 10-20 IU/kg/h	• Monitor for bleeding including GI tract and urinary tract • Careful monitoring of clotting times is required with prolonged use • Can be combined with aspirin and/or clopidogrel • There are numerous variants in ampule size and concentration, so overdosing is a very real risk; take care when using or prescribing.
Heparin Low Molecular Weight [anticoagulant]	For injection: Dalteparin (Fragmin®) 12,500 IU/0.2 ml (Enoxaparin (Lovenox®, Xaparin®) 100 mg/ml and many variants	Dalteparin-Parenteral: 100-200 IU/kg SC q12- 24h Enoxaparin-Parenteral: 1-2 mg/kg SC q12-24h	• No specific monitoring required. • Can be combined with aspirin and/or clopidogrel • There are numerous variants in ampule size and concentration, so overdosing is a very real risk, take care when using or prescribing
Methadone	For injection: 10mg/ml (20 ml vial)	Parenteral: 0.2 – 0.5 mg/kg SC, IM, or IV q 4-6h	• Useful in the acute management of pain during a thromboembolic event
Rivaroxaban [factor Xa inhibitor - antithrombotic]	Tablets: 2.5, 10, 15, 20 mg	PO: 1.25 mg to 5 mg **per cat**, q12-24h	• Higher dosages are often used for the first 3 to 7 days for animals with active thrombosis, then lowered to a maintenance dosage for chronic preventative therapy

Note:

This is a FELINE formulary only; typical dosage ranges are shown; clinicians should be familiar with the pharmacology, indications, contraindications, monitoring and toxicity of any drug prescribed. When wide dosage ranges are shown, the clinician should understand potential needs for up-titration of doses as well as potential for cardiac depression and hypotension in cats with heart failure or impaired ventricular function.

When proprietary names are not indicated, there are usually generic equivalents available.

*These drugs are generally available as a suspension or solution from a compounding pharmacy. Consult with a registered pharmacist regarding stability and storage.

Drugs not associated with an asterisk should not be reformulated or reconstituted without consultation with a registered pharmacist.

†This is a veterinary formulation labeled for use in another species.

With the (possible) exception of nitroglycerine ointment, cardiac medications are ineffective when administered topically.

Abbreviations used in this table:

ACEI = angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor
ARB = angiotensin receptor blocker
ATE = arterial thromboembolism
AVB = atrioventricular block
BP = blood pressure
CHF = congestive heart failure
CM = cardiomyopathy
CRI = constant rate infusion
GI = gastrointestinal
h = hour
HR = heart rate
IM = intramuscularly
IV = intravenously
PCV = packed cell volume
PO = per os (by mouth)
q h = every __ hours
RAAS = renin angiotensin aldosterone system
SC = subcutaneously

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