

### **Sildenafil**

**Sildenafil** (brand names: Viagra®, Revatio®) has been added to your pet's therapy for pulmonary hypertension. Sildenafil is a phosphodiesterase inhibitor that preferentially dilates blood vessels in the lungs to help decrease pressure in the lung blood vessels.

Most dogs tolerate sildenafil with minimal side effects, but in people, sildenafil may cause decreases in systemic blood pressure (hypotension). Sildenafil may be given two to three times per day; some animals require three times per day dosing for maximal benefit.

Your veterinarian may ask you to bring your pet back in for an echocardiogram occasionally to assess intracardiac pressures to measure the drug's efficacy. In addition, periodic re-evaluation of systemic blood pressure may be performed to monitor for side effects. These rechecks are very important to ensure that your pet is receiving enough sildenafil to treat pulmonary hypertension without lowering the systemic blood pressure.

The best way to treat problems due to cardiac medications is to prevent them or to "catch" the problem early. Please call your pet's consulting veterinarian or cardiologist if you have any questions or problems with your pet's cardiac therapy.