



# Drug Handout: Hydrocodone

## What is Hydrocodone?

Hydrocodone is classified as an opioid, a drug with similar properties to morphine. It is used primarily as a cough suppressant (antitussive) in dogs, working on receptors within the brain. Hydrocodone is often paired with another drug, homatropine, mostly for the purpose of preventing abuse.

## Uses/Indications

- Used primarily in dogs as an antitussive to control cough secondary to:
  - ▶ Tracheal collapse, kennel cough, bronchitis, and bronchial compression secondary to heart enlargement
- It is contraindicated in cases of cough caused by uncontrolled congestive heart failure or pneumonia

**Adverse Effects** [please contact CVCA should any of these symptoms be noted]

- **Sedation is the most commonly noted side effect**
- **Constipation, decreased appetite or vomiting**
- **Can worsen intraocular pressure in cases of untreated glaucoma**

## Client Information

- Hydrocodone should not take the place of determining and treating the underlying cause of any cough.
- Hydrocodone is a controlled substance, so the medication should be kept in a safe place.
- Can be given with or without food.

- Available in pill form or liquid, however it can not be reformulated into a flavor.
- Given up to 4 times a day. There is still a question in veterinary medicine whether drug dependence is an issue in dogs, however, it is probably wise not to abruptly stop the medication in chronic use patients.

## Interaction with Other Drugs

- Increased sedation if used with other opioids (pain medications - tramadol, buprenorphine, butorphanol), tranquilizers (acepromazine, alprazolam) or first generation antihistamines (benadryl, hydroxyzine).
- Should not be used in patients on Anipryl/L-Deprenyl, a medication used to treat dog senility and some Cushing's patients.
- Recommended to not use Preventic collars (tick prevention). Other topical flea and tick products are fine.
- The doctors at CVCA have taken this into account, however, please feel free to contact CVCA regarding any concurrent medications your pet may be prescribed.

## Dosage Forms

Hydrocodone Bitartrate Tablets 5mg  
Hydrocodone Bitartrate Syrup 5mg per 5 mL

## Synonyms

Hycodan® tablets and syrup, Tussigon®, Hydromet® syrup, Hydromide® syrup, Hydropane® syrup, Hydrocodone

