

## FENTANYL PATCH INFORMATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

We have placed a Fentanyl patch on your pet in order to provide on-going pain management. The patch has been applied to an area on the skin which was shaved to remove hair, allowing for better absorption of the medication. The patch was then covered with an adhesive bandage to help it stay in place. The patch should provide a slow, continuous source of pain medication delivered to your pet over the next 3 to 5 days.

The patch will require removal by the Veterinary Ophthalmology Services nursing staff (or by your veterinarian) by day 5 after its application on the skin. (The patch must be disposed as medical waste.) **The patch should be evaluated as soon as possible if any of the following occur:**

- the patch becomes wet or soiled
- the patch becomes loose or begins to peel away from the skin
- any swelling near the bandage site is noticed
- your pet seems distressed or disoriented
- your pet appears to be bothered by the patch or bandage, such as licking, chewing, or rubbing at the site excessively. (An Elizabethan collar should be left in place to prevent chewing or licking at the patch and bandage site.)

Side effects related to the Fentanyl patch are uncommon but usually very mild if they occur.

Systemic side effects may include but are not limited to:

- mild sedation
- decreased appetite
- constipation

Local side effects may include, but are not limited to, rash development at the site of patch placement. (The rash should subside once the patch is removed.) Furthermore, heat applied to or near the patch and bandage site may alter drug delivery. **Please avoid the use of external heat sources, such as heating pads, while the patch is in place.**

Please consult with Veterinary Ophthalmology Services or your primary care veterinarian prior to giving additional medications while the patch is in place since the patch may increase sedative effects of other drugs. Conversely, certain pain medications may actually decrease the efficacy of the patch.

Handling or even manipulation of the patch may cause serious side effects in people.

**Please do not allow children to pick at the bandage site or peel the patch off of your pet!**

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Schmidt, Alex, or the Veterinary Ophthalmology Services staff immediately at (805) 473-3332.