

Emergency Care: Suggested Analgesic & Anesthetic Protocols for Cats

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Stable patients: Normal mentation, well hydrated, normal vital measures

Obtunded patients: Mild dehydration, mild depression, normal vital parameters

Nonstable patients: Patients with electrolyte abnormalities requiring stabilization prior to anesthesia

Analgesia & Premedication	Stable Patients	Obtunded Patients	Nonstable Patients
Hydromorphone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.025–0.1 mg/kg IV • Can be administered in incremental doses of 0.01 mg/kg 	Yes	0.01–0.025 mg/kg IV	0.01–0.05 mg/kg IV
Butorphanol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.1–0.3 mg/kg IV 	Yes	Yes	Yes
Buprenorphine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.005–0.02 mg/kg IV • Can be administered in incremental doses of 0.005 mg/kg • Requires 30 min to effect 	Yes	Yes	Yes
Methadone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.05–0.1 mg/kg IV • Administer in incremental doses of 0.01 mg/kg 	Yes	No	No
Further Sedation & Muscle Relaxation			
Diazepam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.25–0.5 mg/kg IV 	Yes	Yes	Yes
Midazolam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.2–0.5 mg/kg IV 	Yes	Yes	Yes
Additional Sedation			
Acepromazine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.01–0.03 mg/kg IV 	Yes	No	No
Anesthesia Induction			
Diazepam & ketamine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diazepam (0.5 mg/kg IV) & ketamine (5–10 mg/kg IV) • Titrate slowly to effect • Do not use if history of heart disease, auscultable heart murmur, or arrhythmia 	Yes	Yes	No
Diazepam & ketamine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ketamine/diazepam titration (1:1 mixture) at 0.02–mL increments • Considered very safe for cats with cardiac abnormalities 	Yes	No	No
Propofol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2–4 mg/kg IV • Doses administered at 25% of calculated dose every 30 sec to effect 	Yes	Yes	No

Other adjunctive methods of analgesia:

- **Epidural anesthesia:** Appropriate for all patients without a contraindication to epidural anesthesia; should be performed by clinicians with experience
- **Nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs (NSAIDs):** Appropriate only in patients without a contraindication for NSAID administration; in our experience, meloxicam (0.05–0.1 mg/kg once or twice) is beneficial in reducing inflammation and dysinergia post obstruction