Trazodone

(Desyrel*, Molipaxin*, Oleptro*, Trazodone*) POM

- **Client Information Leaflet:** Trazodone
- **Formulations**

Oral: 50 mg, 100 mg, 150 mg tablets/capsules; 10 mg/ml liquid.

- **Action**

Trazodone is an atypical antidepressant with mixed serotonergic agonistic (5HT1A) and antagonistic actions (other 5HT receptor sites).

- **Use**
    - Chronic anxiety-related problems in dogs that are unresponsive to other pharmacological interventions. Should be used in conjunction with a behaviour modification plan. Use with caution and carefully monitor patients with renal disease. Less risk in patients with cardiac disease than tricyclic antidepressants such as amitriptyline.
    - Reduction of anxiety associated with hospitalization, including postoperative confinement in dogs.
    - In cats, may be used for the management of short-term anxiety-related problems, e.g. travel or examination anxiety.
- **DOSES**
    - **Dogs**
        - Short-term anxiety associated with hospitalization: 4 mg/kg p.o. q12h titrated upwards to 10–12 mg/kg as needed to a maximum of 300 mg per dose.
        - Chronic anxiety issues: initial dose for 5–10 kg, 25 mg p.o. q24h; 11–20 kg, 50 mg p.o. q24h; >21 kg, 100 mg p.o. q24h. Doses may be titrated upwards every 10–14 days to a maximum of double the recommended initial dose. Doses for dogs >40 kg may be titrated to a maximum of 300 mg p.o. q24h. Dose may need to be increased if used long term as tolerance over time is common. Lower end doses may be used adjunctively with selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (e.g. fluoxetine) but not MAOIs, but the risk of serotonin syndrome should be recognized.
    - **Cats** 50–100 mg/cat p.o. q24h; 50 mg/cat administered 1 hour before travel to address transport and examination-related anxiety. For short-term use only.