

# DOCTORS FOSTER<sup>and</sup>SMITH<sup>TM</sup> PHARMACY

## Patient Information Sheet

PO Box 100, Rhinelander WI 54501

For questions or to consult with a pharmacist, call 1-800-447-3021 Mon-Fri from 9am-6pm CST and Sat from 9am-1pm CST. If you have an emergency situation, please contact your local veterinarian immediately.

## Fentanyl Patch

(Duragesic)

### Common Drug Name

Fentanyl

### Common Brand Names

Duragesic

No generic products are available.

### Storage

Store patch at room temperature in a tight, light resistant, childproof container. Apply patch immediately after opening the sealed package.

### Uses

Fentanyl patches are used for the relief of post-operative or chronic pain in dogs and cats.

### Dose and Administration

Always follow the dosage instructions provided by your veterinarian. If you have difficulty applying the patch, contact your veterinarian.

The patch is applied to a shaved area by a veterinarian or clinic/hospital staff to assure proper application. The patch should not be applied on a part of the body on which the animal may lie. The increased heat and pressure may cause an increase in the absorption of the fentanyl and an increased risk of side effects.

Fentanyl patches require at least 12 hours to take effect in dogs and 6 hours in cats, so apply 6-12 hours before needed, if possible, or provide a short acting pain reliever until the fentanyl starts working.

Duration of relief is at least 3-4 days if the patch is not removed. If the patch is removed before the 3 days, the pain relief will last about 6-12 hours after removal.

This medication should only be given to the pet for whom it was prescribed.

### Possible Side Effects

This information may not cover all possible uses, directions, side effects, precautions, allergic reactions, drug interactions, or withdrawal times. Always consult your own veterinarian for specific advice concerning the treatment of your pet.

May see a rash where patch is applied. Some pets may initially become restless or agitated.

May see decreased breathing and heart rates. May also see loss of appetite, constipation, salivation, panting, or difficulty urinating.

Consult your veterinarian if you notice any of the above side effects.

### Precautions

Not for use in animals hypersensitive (allergic) to it or other opioid medications.

Proper disposal of patches (flushing the patch down the toilet) is imperative because of the abuse potential, and since the amount of fentanyl contained in used patches may exceed the lethal dose for humans. In most cases, veterinarians will require the animal return to the veterinary clinic/hospital for removal of the patch.

Use with caution in animals with liver, kidney, or heart/lung disease.

Use with caution in older, very ill, or debilitated animals.

The slowed breathing often seen with the use of fentanyl may increase the risk of heat exhaustion or heat stroke in dogs since they may not be able to adequately pant to cool themselves.

Increased body heat either from a fever or an external heat source (heating pad) may increase the uptake of fentanyl. Do not apply patch to area of body that may come in contact with a heat source.

Do not place collars/leashes over the patch.

Do not use in breeding, or lactating animals (female animals nursing their young).

If need to use 1/2 of a patch due to side effects or pet's size, do NOT cut the patch. Cover 1/2 of the gel membrane with tape.

If your pet experiences an allergic reaction to the medication, signs may include facial swelling, hives, scratching, sudden onset of diarrhea, vomiting, shock, seizures, pale gums, cold limbs, or coma. If you observe any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

**IMPORTANT:** Keep the patch out of the reach of children and pets. Application of the patch to children can cause an overdose and death. If a child comes in contact with a patch, contact your physician immediately.

### Drug, Food, and Test Interactions

Notify your veterinarian of any other medications, including vitamins and supplements, your pet is taking while your pet is receiving fentanyl.

May have additive effects on the central nervous system (CNS) and decreased respiratory rates if used with other CNS depressants such as sedatives, anesthetics, antihistamines, or seizure medication.

Do not use fentanyl for 14 days after using monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs) such as selegiline (deprenyl, Anipryl), isoniazid, or amitraz (an ingredient in some flea collars and in Mitaban, used to treat mange).

No known food interactions.

### Signs of Toxicity/Overdose

May see very slowed breathing and heart rate. If you observe any of these signs in your pet, contact your veterinarian immediately.

*Keep this and all other medications out of the reach of children and pets.*

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