

Pharmacy Spotlight: Reconcile™ for Dogs

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff



- **Medication type:**
Antidepressant
- **Active ingredient:**
Fluoxetine Hydrochloride
- **Dosage form:**
Chewable, flavored tablet
- **Manufacturer:**
Eli Lilly
- **Generic form:**
[Fluoxetine](#)
- **Major use:**
For dogs suffering with separation anxiety, compulsive behaviors, or noise phobia; can also be used for cats to help prevent urine marking.
- **How it works:**
Fluoxetine is a serotonin reuptake inhibitor that increases the activity of serotonin, a neurotransmitter, in the central nervous system.

Reconcile™ SUCCESS STORY:

Dog's Name: Baron
Breed: Rough Collie
Age: 2 years

His story: Baron, a male tri-color Rough Collie, spent most of his time outdoors as a self-appointed sentinel on the family farm. He was the epitome of fearlessness and canine poise. Curled up on the porch, he welcomed visitors with the utmost sense of dignity. Easygoing and loving, he could be trusted with the smallest child, and he never thought to wander off or chase a car. His idea of daytime excitement consisted of gently maneuvering the flock of chickens into the chicken coop. Then, crouching down on all fours, he would follow the last one through the



small opening into the coop, only to nudge the birds out again, one by one. This docile, lackadaisical exhibition of his herding instinct typified his laid-back style. Nothing could exhaust his store of inner calm; nothing, that is, except the distant rumblings of an approaching thunderstorm.

Seasoned canine owners are familiar with the tendency of some dogs to dislike storms. In Baron's case, however, his new owners had no previous experience with noise phobia in a pet and were initially amused at his "fear" antics. This unshakable, confident pet became clingy and needy. It was as if something transformed him into a helpless child.

One night Baron, asleep in his usual spot in the attached garage, had his dreams interrupted as family members slept through a slight storm. In the morning, the dog was discovered at the foot of the bed in the master bedroom; the door to the garage was standing open. This intelligent Collie, in sheer fright, had used his mouth to open a metal utility door to find sanctuary inside the house.

Realizing the severity of his fear of storms, the owners took the dog to their veterinarian, and a program of intervention was implemented. [Reconcile™](#), an anti-anxiety medication, was prescribed for the entire thunderstorm season, and they were given several behavior modification techniques to use to minimize his phobic reactions.

Outcome: Baron receives one [Reconcile™](#) tablet a day during the summer months. A sturdy crate sits on the garage floor, and a heavy blanket drapes it so that he has a place of shelter for nighttime storms. If storms occur during the day, family members are careful to ignore any fearful reactions, giving him no coddling attention, which would only reinforce the behavior that they are trying to eliminate. Additionally they often offer him a favorite treat to divert his focus off the noise of wind, rain, and thunder. These simple measures have allowed Baron to successfully handle subsequent summer storms.

For full details on this medication, [download the free patient information sheet](#).