

Desired Effect	Drug Options	Healthy		Examples	Compromised/Sick	
Low FAS 	Gabapentin			50–150 mg/cat PO, 20–40 mg/kg PO (dog) 2–3 hr before visit		
	Trazodone			3–7.5 mg/kg PO (dog)		
	Alpha-2 agonist			Dexmedetomidine gel OTM. Use label dose for patient size**		
Light sedation 	Opioid			Butorphanol 0.2–0.4 mg/kg IV/IM		
	Benzodiazepine			Midazolam 0.2 mg/kg, IV/IM		
Moderate sedation 	Opioid			Butorphanol 0.4 mg/kg IM or Buprenorphine 0.02 mg/kg OTM (cat)		
	Tranquilizer			Acepromazine 0.01–0.03 mg/kg IM (dog)*, 0.025–0.1 mg/kg IM (cat)†		
	Benzodiazepine			Midazolam 0.2 mg/kg, IV/IM		
	Alpha-2 agonist			Dexmedetomidine 3–7 µg/kg IM (dog) or 3–10 µg/kg IM (cat) or 0.04 mg/kg OTM (cats)		
Heavy sedation 	Opioid			Butorphanol 0.2–0.4 mg/kg IM		
	Benzodiazepine			Midazolam 0.2 mg/kg, IV/IM		
	Alpha-2 agonist			Dexmedetomidine 7–15 µg/kg IM (dog) or 10–20 µg/kg IM (cat)		
	Neurosteroid			Alfaxalone 1–2 mg IM§		
	Dissociative			Ketamine 1–2 mg/kg IM		

How to use this chart:

1. Select desired level of sedation.
2. Consider the combinations available.
3. Evaluate the health status of your canine or feline patient.
4. Taking into consideration patient demeanor, the anticipated length of, and degree of pain caused by the procedure, and other factors, select a color combination that suits you and your patient's needs.
5. Make appropriate combination choices, remembering to use the lower end of the drug dose when combining with other sedatives.

FAS, fear, anxiety, stress; OTM, oral transmucosal administration

* Maximum 2–3 mg total dose

† Maximum 1 mg total dose

‡ Best used in small patients

§ Administer to fractious patients in parking lot