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PROTOCOL FOR PRE-EUTHASASIA ANESTHESIA FREE WITHOUT AWARENESS OR RESTRAINT

SUMMARY: This is a modifiable single agent technique for anesthesia of the pre-euthanasia patient that involves dilution of an overdose of Telazol in a warmed subcutaneous fluid bubble.

1. Warm fluids by immersing fluid bag in hot water and after drawing up the fluids, testing that the temperature cannot be felt upon the skin of the wrist or forearm.
2. Draw up about 15 cc of fluids for the cat and 25 cc of fluids for the canine patient.
3. Draw up Telazol at 1cc for the feline patient (range of 0.7 to 1.2 cc based on the size and constitution of the patient; always use a 3 cc syringe to differentiate this syringe as containing the medication); 3 cc for the small canine patient (range of 2.5 to 3.5 cc) and 5 cc for the large dog over 50 pounds. Can be 7.5 to 10 cc for very large canine patients particularly if constitutionally strong.
4. Draw up one additional syringe of warm saline in a 1 cc syringe.
5. Arrange these on a small hand towel that can be folded for transport to the patient's side.
6. Sit on the far side of the patient.
7. Bring along something delicious (chicken top dressed in cat food or Churu for dogs; Fancy Feast appetizer for cats). Have client hold the food and interest the patient.
8. On cue have the client provide the food given to the patient freely to eat. If the patient does not want the food, remove it and simply have the client draw circles on the top of the head and behind the ears. If the canine patient finishes the chicken and wants more have cheese sticks ready to go to administer in small pieces.
9. Using a 23-gauge butterfly start administration of the fluid slowly; can go faster as the patient acclimates. Then administer the Telazol at a slower pace into the fluid bubble and follow with the flush.
10. A very alert canine patient might also benefit from xylazine 0.1 cc/20 pounds and very lightly color the syringe with acepromazine. This will allow for smoother sedation.
11. Sedation to anesthesia will occur in 5 to 10 minutes confirmed by toe pinch demonstrating to the client that the patient is no longer aware and peacefully sleeping.
12. The sedation time is a sacred quiet time to discuss the patient's story and meaning.

There is no reason not to provide Gabapentin as pre-visit medication to ALL euthanasia patients as long as they are willing to take oral medications without any stress.

This would be 50 mg for a cat and 20 mg/kg for the canine.

The expense of this protocol is readily assimilated by the client for its value.