



Veterinary Specialist Group

USE OF ETIDRONATE IN DOGS AND CATS

Etidronate (generic name etidrate) is a drug from the bisphosphonate family. These drugs are used to control elevated calcium in various diseases (especially cancer) and may also have direct anti-cancer properties in and of themselves. A number of veterinary oncologists in the USA are using the drug in osteosarcoma in dogs, although there is no conclusive proof that it works.

This drug is usually safe, however gastrointestinal upset may be seen (this can range from anorexia to vomiting and diarrhea). If this occurs we usually stop the drug for a few days then restart at a lower dose.

The dose is variable, but is usually approximately 10mg/kg once daily. The dose can be varied up or down to suit the effect and possible side effects.