

Common Antiarrhythmic Drugs

Drug (trade name)	Class	Species	Route	Dose
β-Adrenergic blockers				
Atenolol (Tenormin)	II	Dog	PO	6.25-50 mg q12h (total dose; start low; titrate)
Atenolol (Tenormin)	II	Cat	PO	6.25-12.5 mg q12-24h (total dose; start low; titrate)
Esmolol (Brevibloc)	II	Both	IV	0.25-0.5 mg/kg (slow bolus) 10-200 µg/kg/min infusion
Propranolol (Inderal)	II	Dog	PO	0.1-2.0 mg/kg q8h (start low and titrate to effect in atrial fibrillation; higher doses used for other arrhythmias)
Propranolol (Inderal)	II	Cat	PO	2.5-10 mg (total dose; start low; titrate)
Propranolol (Inderal)	II	Both	IV	0.01-0.1 mg/kg (start low; titrate to effect for supraventricular arrhythmias)
Sotalol (Betapace)	II, III	Dog	PO	1-3 mg/kg q12h
Calcium channel blockers				
Diltiazem (Cardizem)	IV	Dog	PO	0.5-1.5 mg/kg q8h (start low; titrate to effect for A-fib)
Diltiazem (Cardizem)	IV	Dog	PO	0.5-3 mg/kg (start low; titrate to effect for SVT)
Diltiazem (Cardizem)	IV	Dog	IV	0.05-0.25 mg/kg (initial 0.05 mg/kg dose over 2-3 min; repeat every 5 min up to cumulative dose of 0.25 mg/kg)
Diltiazem (Cardizem)	IV	Cat	PO	7.5-15 mg q8h (total dose)
Verapamil (many)	IV	Dog	IV	0.05-0.25 mg/kg (initial 0.05 mg/kg dose over 2-3 min; repeat every 5 min up to cumulative dose of 0.15 mg/kg)
Positive chronotropes, for bradycardia				
Atropine (many)		Both	IV, SC	0.02-0.04 mg/kg
Glycopyrolate (Robinul)		Both	IV, SC	0.005-0.01 mg/kg
Isoproterenol (many)		Both	IV	0.01-0.1 µg/kg/min CRI (alternatively, 1 mg in 500 mL D5W or LRS and infuse to effect)
Terbutaline (Brethine, Bricanyl)		Dog	PO	2.5-10 mg (total dose; start low; titrate)
Ventricular antiarrhythmics				
Amiodarone (Cordarone)	III	Dog	PO	Loading dose: 10-30 mg/kg q24h for 7-10 days; maintenance dose: 5-15 mg/kg q24h
Lidocaine (Xylocaine)	Ib	Dog	IV	Loading dose: 2-4 mg/kg slow bolus over 1 to 3 minutes maintenance dose: 40-100 µg/kg/min
Mexiletine (Mexitil)	Ib	Dog	PO	5-10 mg/kg q8h
Phenytoin (Dilantin)	Ib	Dog	PO	20-35 mg/kg q8h
Procainamide (Pronestyl; -SR)	Ia	Dog	PO	10-30 mg/kg q6-8h
Procainamide (Pronestyl)	Ia	Dog	IV, IM	5-20 mg/kg (administer slowly; start low; titrate)
Quinidine (many)	Ia	Dog	PO, IM	6-16 mg/kg q6-8h
Sotalol (Betapace)	II, III	Dog	PO	1-3 mg/kg q12h
Tocainide	Ib	Dog	PO	10-15 mg/kg q8h