



## **BRIARPOINTE VETERINARY CLINIC**

47330 Ten Mile Road  
Novi, MI 48374  
(248) 449-7447

Ronald A. Studer, D.V.M., L.P.C.    John S. Parker, D.V.M.

### **CUSHING'S DISEASE TREATMENT WITH LYSODREN®**

#### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR LYSODREN® (Mitotane) TREATMENT OF CUSHING'S DISEASE**

It is important to remember that Lysodren is a poison that was developed prior to World War II as a chemical warfare agent. During development, it was discovered that it acted only by destroying a specific region of the adrenal gland. Researchers learned how to carefully dose Lysodren to control the adrenal gland's overproduction of cortisol.

So, we need to be careful not to overdose. We will send home Prednisone to have on hand in the event your dog shows signs of an overdose of Lysodren.

Treatment with this drug involves an *induction phase* and a *maintenance phase*. The *initiating phase* arrests the disease and restores the dog to a more normal state. Some of the clinical signs, especially increased food and water intake, should stop within the first 1-3 weeks. Other signs, such as a poor hair coat or a sagging abdomen, may take several weeks or months to correct. The *maintenance phase* represents the phase of long-term therapy. This phase lasts the rest of the dog's life.

You must continually monitor your dog's food and water intake. We expect both to return to a normal level. Water intake should be less than 1 oz. per pound (66 cc per kilogram) of body weight per day, but don't limit the water if your dog needs to drink more. Your dog should drink \_\_\_\_\_ ounces (\_\_\_\_\_cc) per day. The amount of food should also be measured each day. At least two feedings per day are preferred.

#### **Induction Phase**

1. Give \_\_\_\_\_ Lysodren™ tablet(s) one time per day beginning on \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ days **or until one of the following occurs:**

- a) Your dog's water intake drops to 1 oz. per pound (66 cc per kilogram) per day or \_\_\_\_\_ per day
- b) Your dog does not eat a regular meal.
- c) Your dog vomits.
- d) Your dog has diarrhea.

e) Your dog becomes unusually listless.

2. In \_\_\_\_\_ days or when one of the above occurs for another ACTH stimulation test. This test should be done in the morning and will require your dog to be in the hospital for about 2-3 hours. If the test is abnormal, the initiating phase will continue. If the test is normal, the maintenance phase will begin.

3. If loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, or listlessness occurs, give \_\_\_\_\_ tablet(s) (\_\_\_\_\_ mg) of Prednisone twice daily for two days. **DISCONTINUE THE LYSODREN™ TABLETS.** If vomiting prevents oral administration, your dog must be seen by a veterinarian for administration of proper medication by injection. When (if) you begin this treatment, please call us for consultation and instructions.

4. Report any other changes in your dog's behavior that are out of the ordinary. This disease and this treatment can result in several abnormal behaviors. However, your dog can also have other diseases that occur concurrently but independently of Cushing's Disease. It is important that we differentiate between the two situations so that proper treatment can be taken.

5. Stay cautiously optimistic. This is a serious disease, but many dogs with Cushing's Disease enjoy a greatly improved quality of life for many years.

### **Maintenance Phase**

When regulated, your dog will take Lysodren™ approximately once weekly. An ACTH stimulation test will be necessary about every 3-6 months to be sure that regulation is satisfactory. At the appropriate time, the specifics of the maintenance phase will be explained.

Give \_\_\_\_\_ tablet(s) every \_\_\_\_\_ days.