

Recommended Rabbit Analgesic & Anesthetic Agents

DRUG	DOSE	ROUTE	FREQUENCY	COMMENTS
Analgesics				
Aspirin ¹	10 - 100 mg/kg	PO	Every 8 – 24 hrs	GI side effects; low-grade teratogen; may delay labor; avoid use during pregnancy
Buprenorphine ^{2,4}	0.01 – 0.05 mg/kg	SQ, IV	BID	May cause respiratory depression; may be irritating at injection site
Butorphanol	0.1 – 0.5 mg/kg	IV, SQ	q4h	
Carprofen ¹	1.0 - 1.5 mg/kg	PO	BID	Use with care in hypovolemic or hypotensive rabbits
	2 – 4 mg/kg	SQ	SID	
Flunixin meglumine ¹	1.1 mg/kg	SC, IM	BID	GI side effects; use with care in hypovolemic or hypotensive rabbits
Ibuprofen ¹	2 - 7.5 mg/kg	PO	QID to TID	GI side effects
Ketoprofen ¹	1 - 3 mg/kg	IM, SQ	SID	GI side effects
Meloxicam ¹	0.2 – 0.5 mg/kg	IM, SQ, PO	SID	Oral preparation well tolerated
Pre-Anesthetics				
Glycopyrrolate	0.1 mg/kg	IM		Preferred in Rabbits
Atropine	0.04 – 2 mg/kg	IM, SC		May not be effective in some breeds/strains
Anesthetics				
Isoflurane ⁷	3 – 5% induction 1 – 2% maintain	Inhalation		Rapid induction and recovery Irritating to mucous membranes MAC = 2.05%
Ketamine ^{4,6} + Acepromazine	50 - 75 mg/kg + 1 - 2.5 mg/kg	IM		Partially reversible with Yobine® (yohimbine)
Ketamine ^{4,6} + Diazepam ⁵	20 – 40 mg/kg + 1 – 5 mg/kg	IM		Partially reversible with Yobine® (yohimbine)
Ketamine ^{4,6} + Xylazine	35 mg/kg + 5 mg/kg	IM, SQ		Variation exists in response among rabbits Reversible with Antesedan® (atipamezole) or Yobine® (yohimbine) Caution with IM injection due to myonecrosis & neuritis
Ketamine ^{4,6} + Xylazine + Acepromazine	35 mg/kg + 5 mg/kg + 1 mg/kg	K = IM + X = IM + A = IM, SQ		Provides approx. 30% longer anesthesia and recovery than ketamine-xylazine alone Reversible with Antesedan® (atipamezole) or Yobine® (yohimbine)
Pentobarbital ³	20 - 45 mg/kg	IV, IP		20 – 40 min duration Low margin of safety Unreliable anesthesia
Sedatives				
Acepromazine	1 – 5 mg/kg	IM, SQ		Mild to moderate sedation; duration 4 hr Partially reversible with Yobine® (yohimbine)
Diazepam ⁵	0.5 - 2 mg/kg	IV, IM		Moderate to deep sedation; duration 30 to 180 min
	2 - 10 mg/kg	IP		
Ketamine ^{4,6}	25 - 50 mg/kg	IM, IV		Moderate to heavy sedation; duration 1 hr (IM) or 15 – 20 min (IV) Partially reversible with Yobine® (yohimbine)
Medetomidine	0.25 – 0.5 mg/kg	IM, SQ		Moderate to deep sedation; duration < 2 hr Reversible with Antesedan® (atipamezole)
Xylazine	0.5 – 3 mg/kg	IM, SQ		Moderate to profound sedation; duration 30 – 60 min Reversible with Antesedan® (atipamezole) or Yobine® (yohimbine)
Reversal Agents				
Antisedan® (atipamezole)	0.1 - 1.0 mg/kg	SQ, IV, IM		Administer as equal volume as xylazine
Yobine® (yohimbine)	0.2 – 1.0 mg/kg	IV, IM		As needed

¹ NSAID

² Opioid

³ C-II controlled drug

⁴ C-III controlled drug² C-III controlled drug

⁵ C-IV controlled drug

⁶ Ketamine used alone in mammals is not usually adequate for deep anesthesia.

⁷ Survival procedures require the use of a precision vaporizer for isoflurane gas delivery