

Health – Sensitivity to Anesthesia

There have been multiple cases of Bracchi that are sensitive to sedation and anesthesia, and the drug medetomidine (Domitor) in particular. Domitor has mostly been phased out of use in the US and in the UK as many dogs had reactions to the drug, regardless of breed. Unfortunately, there were cases where Bracchi had fatal reactions (including cardiac arrest) to Domitor in the past.

Domitor is a first generation drug, and while it is no longer used in most veterinary practices, its successor Dexdomitor (Dexmedetomidine) is commonly used as a sedative. It is not uncommon for dogs that are sensitive to Domitor to also be sensitive to Dexdomitor, although no Bracchi have been reported to have had adverse reactions to the newer drug.

One reason why a veterinarian may choose Dexdomitor is that it can be reversed by the use of the drug Antisedan. However while Antisedan can help stop the progression of an adverse reaction by annulling the effects of Dexdomitor, it does not prevent the reaction from occurring and other intense medical intervention may be necessary in severe cases.

As with any breed, individual dogs will respond differently to the use of sedatives and anesthetics. It's important to discuss with your veterinarian that the the breed is known to be sensitive to Medetomidine (Domitor) and see what other options are available for sedation. If Domitor or Dexdomitor is the only drug available for sedation, it is important that the Bracco is very closely monitored under anesthesia (breathing, heart rate and rhythm, temperature, CO2 levels, tidal volume, blood oxygenation, etc) . If any irregularity in heartbeat occurs the dog should be removed from anesthesia immediately. It is recommended that Bracchi are fully monitored for all procedures requiring anesthesia.

In addition, some Bracchi have been reported to have sensitivity to other sedatives. Each dog will have a different tolerance level for sedation, however multiple Bracchi have taken longer than expected to recover from anesthesia and sedation, even when given a lower dose.

As aforementioned, it is important to discuss with your veterinarian that the Bracco is predisposed to be sensitive to anesthesia so you can both make the choice that is best for your dog.