Do Not Use Drugs For Australian Shepherds

*Compiled by Nannette Newbury*

The following list is compiled from the Rough Collie Council of the U.K. and the Washington State University websites.

It has taken years, but we now “scientifically” know that herding breeds can be sensitive to certain drugs (MDR1). However the MDR1 gene test ONLY focuses on drugs that are known to be pumped out of the brain by P-glycoprotein, the protein encoded by the MDR1 gene. Therefore the MDR1 test is only a tool.

It is wise to treat all Australian Shepherds as though they are carriers (Mutant/Mutant). Australian Shepherds without the MDR1 gene (Normal/Normal) have had severe reactions to the list of drugs below. **NOTE:** The drugs on the list are also distributed in “generic” forms with different names (i.e., Metronidazole is the same as Flagyl).

MANY other drugs can cause severe, even deadly reactions in the herding breeds, most having to do with the Central Nervous System disorders including encephalitis, seizures, etc. The reactions may not be immediate…they may even take years to manifest. The list of these drugs has been compiled with the help of breeders and owners over many years who have personally experienced the disastrous results.

I have combined the two lists for ease of use. If the drug has an asterisk (\*) after it, it is from *Washington State University* (MDR1) and is on their “problem” drug list. If the drug is on both lists there will be two asterisks (\*\*). All others are solely from the *Rough Collie Council of the U.K*.

Acepromazine\*\*

Aldosterone

Amitriptyline

Antiemetics

Apomorphine\*

Buprenorphine

Butorphanol\*\*

Chinidin

Cimeditine

Cortisol

Cyclosporin A

Dexamethasone

Digoxin

Diltiazem

Domperidone

Doxorubicin\*\*

Doxycycline

Ebastine

Erythromycin

Estradiol

Etoposide

Fentanyl

Fexofenadine

Grepafloxacin

Hydrocortisone

Ivermectin\*\*

Itraconazole

Ketoconazole

Loperamide\*\*

Losartan

Methylprednisolone

Metoclopramide

Metronidazole

Milbemycin\*\*

Mitoxantrone

Morphine

Moxidectin\*\*

Ondansetron

Paclitaxel\*\*

Phenothiazines

Phenytoin

Quinidine

Ranitidine

Rifampin

Rifamicin

Selamectin\*\*

Sparfloxacin

Tacrolimus

Tetracycline

Verapamil

Vinblastine\*\*

Vincristine\*\*

***Please Note****: Not every Australian Shepherd will have a negative or deadly reaction to the drugs listed above. However enough of them have had severe reactions and/or died to warrant caution. YOU must be an advocate for your Australian Shepherd.*

If you have an Australian Shepherd that becomes severely neurologically impaired after being administered one of the drugs above and does not survive…please consider making arrangements for a brain and spine necropsy.

*If you like, send the results of the brain necropsy to* [*stonepine@hughes.net*](mailto:stonepine@hughes.net) *so we can continue to store the anecdotal results in one location.*

Washington State University: (<https://vcpl.vetmed.wsu.edu/problem-drugs>)

Rough Collie Council of the U.K.:(<http://www.roughcolliebreedcouncil.co.uk/health/drugsensitivity.html>)