Aspirin was prescribed to your pet today. Click this link for more information: URL: https://veterinarypartner.vin.com/doc/?id=4951432&pid=192396101b923-2040-413f-a8c9-27ea2522bf57.1735590867

What is this medication used for:

There are three main uses for aspirin:

- The relief of pain secondary to inflammatory disease, usually joint disease or eyedisease though safer drugs have largely replaced aspirin in this role.
- To reduce the tendency of blood to clot as in certain heart diseases, glomerular disease, and any other condition with inappropriate tendency for blood to clot,though clopidogrel has largely replaced aspirin for this use.
- To reduce fever; while this is a common use for humans, we recognize that feverhas an important place in immune function in fighting infection. Unless a fever isdangerously high, we generally do not reduce it artificially. Furthermore, as withtreating pain, safer drugs are available for this use.

Side Effects:

The chief side effects of concern are: Nausea or diarrhea,
Stomach and intestinal ulceration and bleeding.
Reduced blood supply to the kidney, possibly leading to kidney failure.
Reduced ability to clot blood.
The most common side effect of aspirin is probably stomach upset. It is important to resist the temptation of using any of these non-aspirin products in pets as most have a far greater potential to ulcerate the stomach than does aspirin.
In short, the most common side effect of aspirin is vomiting. There can also be panting, listlessness, and diarrhea.
Serious side effects relate mostly to ulceration of the stomach so one should watch for tarry black stools indicating blood passing through the GI tract.
Cats metabolize aspirin very slowly and it is easy to overdose them. Check the dose and frequency of administration with your veterinarian.

Interactions with Other Drugs:

Using aspirin with other NSAIDS (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) exaggerates the ulcerative properties of these medications. Aspirin should not be used in combination withcortisone-type medications such as prednisone or with other NSAIDs such as Rimadyl unless absolutely necessary.
Combining aspirin and furosemide leads to an increase in the aspirin's activity. Toxicity problems could result if higher aspirin doses are used. This is unlikely to be a problem iflower (anti-clotting) doses of aspirin are being used.
Digoxin, a heart medication, will last longer and achieve higher blood levels if given with aspirin.
Spironolactone, a diuretic, will be weaker if given to a patient on concurrent aspirin. The same is true for ACE (angiotensin-converting enzyme) inhibitors. In other words, they may be less effective in the presence of aspirin.

Concurrent use of aspirin and phenobarbital may lead to rapid metabolism of the aspirin so that it does not last as long.
Concurrent use of buffered aspirin and tetracycline may lead to binding of the tetracycline to the antacid so that the tetracycline is inactivated. These medications should be separated by at least an hour if used together.
Aspirin is sometimes combined with clopidogrel, another anticoagulant, in cats in need of extra clot tendency reduction; however, recent studies indicate that clopidogrel alone is more effective than aspirin alone.
The anti-coagulant/anti-platelet effect of aspirin may be enhanced by concurrent use of omega 3 fatty acids, glucosamine (joint support supplement), calcium channel blockers, and serotonin reuptake inhibitors.

Concerns and Cautions:
It is important to understand the dosing regimen recommended if aspirin is to be used in a cat. The dosing schedule is quite different for dogs than cats.
Do not use human medications on pets without specific instructions on how to safely do so from your veterinarian.
Aspirin will reduce blood flow through the kidney, which is likely to make pre-existing kidney disease much worse.
Enteric coating of aspirin may alter the way aspirin is absorbed in the stomach. The pills tend to stick to the stomach lining instead of dissolving properly. If enough tablets accumulate, overdose and death can occur. We recommend non-enteric coated aspirin only.
If a dog's aspirin dose is accidentally skipped, do not double up on the next dose. Simply give the next dose as scheduled.