OPOIDS

* Diverse group of naturally occurring and synthetic drugs used primarily for their *analgesic activity.*
* Despite some well-known adverse effects and disadvantages, opioids are the *most effective analgesics available for the systemic treatment of acute pain* in many species, particularly dogs and cats.
* Opioid receptors are part of a large superfamily of membrane-bound receptors.
* Each opioid receptor has a unique distribution in the *brain, spinal card, and periphery.*
* Opioids combine reversibly with these receptors and alter the transmission and perception of pain.
* In addition to analgesia, opioids can induce other CNS effects that include sedation, euphoria, dysphoria, and excitement.
* The clinical effects of opioids *vary between the mu opioid receptor agonists* (eg, morphine, hydromorphone), *partial mu agonists* (ie, buprenorphine), and *agonist-antagonists* (eg, butorphanol).
* The clinical effect of an opioid also depends on additional patient factors, including the *presence or absence of pain, health status of the animal, concurrent drugs administered* (eg, tranquilizers), and *individual sensitivity to opioids*.
* Effects of opioids differ in *horses and cats* compared to other species.
* Opiods *cause mydriasis in cats but miosis in dogs.*