

How to Medicate Your Pet

Oral Medications: It is important that your pet receives medications at the right times and for the full course of treatment. If you are unable to medicate your pet properly, please call us at 608-836-0600. We are available to help you over the phone or in person. Here are some helpful tips to get you started.

1. First, remember that you are a good pet owner and doing this for your pet's own good. A matter-of-fact approach and talking to your pet in a low, soothing voice is helpful.
2. To administer a tablet or capsule, place one hand on the upper jaw and press the lips gently against the teeth. With your other hand, pull the lower jaw down and place the pill on the back of the tongue, as far back as possible. Then, gently massage the throat until your pet swallows. Check the mouth to make sure the pill has gone down.
3. If you have to give your pet liquid medication, pull the corner of the mouth to make a pouch and give the liquid slowly.
4. Do not mix pills or liquids with food in bowls.

For Cats: A video demonstration for giving cat medications is available at Cornell University's website: www.partnersah.vet.cornell.edu/pet/fhc/pill_or_capsule

For Dogs: Pills or capsules can sometimes be put in cheese or peanut butter. Generally a dog will eat this eagerly. Check and make sure your dog has actually ingested the pill.

Ear Medication: For medications to be effective, it is important that the ears be clean and free of debris. Janssen Clinic has cleansers that have been specifically formulated for basic ear cleaning or Dr. Janssen may prescribe a specific one to you for your pet's condition.

To clean ears:

1. Hold the earflap up parallel to the face. Pour the cleaning solution into the ear canal freely.
2. Massage the base of the ear 5-10 seconds to make sure the cleaning solution is distributed.
3. Wipe out the ear thoroughly with cotton balls.
4. Allow your pet to shake its head to loosen the dirt and debris and allow it to come to the surface
5. Wipe out the ear a final time

To apply ear drops and ointments:

1. Hold the top of the ear with your thumb and forefinger, stretching it up slightly.
2. Discharge the medication with the applicator positioned gently at the base of the ear.
3. Massage the base of the ear gently to make sure all the medication has dispersed

Eye Medication:

1. To place drops or ointment in the eye, use your thumb to pull down the lower lid.
2. With your other hand, place the drops or ointment in the pouch you have created without touching the eye itself. Try to approach from behind to avoid the pet's line of vision if possible.

