



Administering Medications – Cat

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Topical (Eye) Medications

Drops

Some cats will happily sit still while you administer their medications, however others may need some form of restraint. Most cats are most comfortable being held in your lap while undergoing treatment. To administer the drops, hold the head with your nondominant hand and gently tilt the head up. Use the side of your dominant hand to pull the upper eyelid up to open the eye and simultaneously hold the bottle a few centimeters from the eye to prevent accidentally traumatizing the eye. Squeeze the bottle and give 1 drop as directed.

Ointments

Your pet should be restrained as above. To administer the ointment, hold the head with your nondominant hand and gently tilt the head up. Use the side of your dominant hand to pull down on the lower eyelid to create a pocket and simultaneously hold the tube a few centimeters away from the eye to prevent accidentally traumatizing the eye. Squeeze a small amount (approximately ¼ inch strip) of ointment across the surface of the eye or into the pocket that you have formed. Allow the eye to shut, or gently close the eye, to distribute the ointment over the surface.

*** The administration of topical medications will be demonstrated to you by a technician or Dr. Gray before you leave the hospital with your pet. Please feel free to ask any questions or discuss any concerns regarding the administration of the medications at that time.**

Oral

Tablets/Capsules

If the medications can or should be given with food it will be labeled as such. If the tablet or capsule can be given with food, you can make a small meatball with canned food or anything else that your pet will readily eat. It is best if they do not chew the meatball since they will get a bad taste in their mouth if the tablet breaks, making it harder to give the next time. Always be careful not to be bitten when giving oral medications. Some pills can be easily crushed up and added to canned food, tuna juice, or other tasty treat.

In those cases where the medication cannot be given with food, or your cat will not eat the medicated food, you will need to pill your pet. You can do this by holding your cat's head with your non-dominant hand. Hold the tablet or capsule between the thumb and forefinger of your dominant hand. Tilt the head back and pull open the bottom jaw with the hand holding the pill. Drop the pill as far back inside the mouth as possible (if the pill is not placed far enough back, the cat may spit it back up). Immediately close the mouth and blow on or gently tap the nose to encourage them to swallow. Always be careful not to be bitten. If you find it difficult to administer pills or capsules, ask about the possibility of switching to a liquid.

Liquid

Liquid medications should be administered at the side of the mouth between the cheek and teeth. Draw up the prescribed amount as indicated on the prescription label and slowly squirt the medication into the pouch. Hold the mouth closed until your pet swallows (blowing on or touching the nose may encourage this). Alternatively, the medication may be mixed with soft/canned food if your pet will readily ingest it.