



Tips for Medication Administration

Most importantly- work with a hungry pet! Do not try to administer medications after a meal or if your pet has free access to food throughout the day/night (pick up/limit access to food, particularly DRY food for 4-6 hours prior to PVP administration).

***Remember to offer BLANK treat first, then treat containing medication, followed by blank treat* Always utilize the 1-2-3 (4-5) trick! Prepare 3 to 5 “treatballs,” with one containing the medication. Give 1 or 2 treatballs without the medication. While your pet is swallowing the treat, let him/her see your coming with the next one. Slip in the treatball with the medication, quickly followed by a chaser treatball.**

Good options for hiding the medications are: 1-2 TBS of tuna or sardines with juice, anchovy paste, liverwurst, hot dog, smelly canned food, Gerber’s baby food- chicken or other flavor, whipped cream, Easy Cheese, yogurt, cereal milk, Peanut Butter, Deli meat, small pieces of cooked chicken, turkey, tuna, etc., chicken broth/chicken soup, Marshmallow Fluff, mini marshmallows, Tomlyn Veterinary Science Pill-Masker (can wrap around whole capsule), Pill Pockets (use a bits of one as treats, then cover pill/capsule with small amount of one)- Greenies or Milk Bone Pill Pouch versions -Sometimes we need to try quite few different treats to identify the magic treat, which also may change over time.

-Any dry treat (e.g. Temptations) can be crushed, mixed with a small amount of water and made into a tasty “pill pocket”

-Sprinkling Purina's Fortiflora (1 sachet) OR parmesan cheese on wet treat or food can be enormously helpful to increase palatability, particularly for cats.

For patients with food allergies/sensitivities:

Hypoallergenic or novel protein Pill Pockets (e.g duck), Tricky TREATS, Hill's Science Diet HypoTreats, Purina Gentle Snackers, Provable Forte paste or Fortiflora (make a paste with water)- any dry treat can be crushed, mixed with a small amount of water and made into a tasty “pill pocket”

If administering a liquid/oral suspension by syringe, paste/coat the outside of the syringe with something tasty (see above) and let your dog or cat lick the treat while you slowly depress the plunger of the syringe to deposit the oral medication in his/her mouth or cheek pouch/under tongue, as directed.

Medications often come in various formulations (pill, capsule, oral suspension, transdermal, etc.)- please let us know if you think a different formulation may be more appealing to your pet.

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