

# ADMINISTERING TOPICAL EYE MEDICATIONS

## AFTER YOUR APPOINTMENT

After your ophthalmology consultation you may be prescribed a range of different medications for your pet. Take care to follow advice for handling, storing, and the timing of the medications prescribed, and ask if you have any concerns or questions about your pet's treatment

Treatment planning sheets are available from our Registered Veterinary Nurses. These may help you organise the administration of multiple medications at different times of day. Unless advised otherwise, please space out the medication equally throughout the day. The Nurses are always at hand to give advice when needed.



## OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

The majority of eye medications are not painful, but your pet is likely to flinch as the sensation is unexpected. This is more likely to occur if the medication has been kept refrigerated.

It is important to administer the drops with care to avoid touching the surface of the eye. Accidental contact with the surface of the eye can be painful, lead to resentment for ongoing treatment, and can also become a source of trauma and infection.

It's best to keep the administration of medications as stress free as possible. This may include treats both before and after administration, as well as giving lots of praise and cuddles! Most will respond well to this approach and we have many patients that enjoy this additional contact.

Finally, if your pet is uncooperative and you are concerned about your safety please speak to a Registered Veterinary Nurse about the correct handling techniques.

## ADMINISTERING EYE MEDICATION TO YOUR PET

- ⊗ Start by gently cleaning away any ocular discharge with cooled boiled water then pat dry using a tissue.
- ⊗ Facing your pet, raise their chin with your thumb and use your forefinger to raise their top eyelid.
- ⊗ Hold the eye drops in your other hand and position them at an angle towards the eye before squeezing the bottle to administer one drop of the medication.
- ⊗ Do not allow any contact with the surface of the eye and avoid touching the bottle tip with your fingers as this could lead to contamination.
- ⊗ Keep the head up for a few seconds to allow as much absorption as possible.
- ⊗ Pat any residue from the fur around the eye gently with a clean tissue.
- ⊗ One drop of the medication is a single dose and it is unnecessary to apply multiple drops unless you missed the target first time.



When using ointments rather than drops pull down the lower eyelid and administer the ointment along the inside of the eyelid.

Then gently close the eye to help spread the ointment without putting pressure on the eyeball itself. Again, making sure not to touch the eye or the nozzle dispenser.

- ⊗ Always remember to keep the lid on the medication when not in use.
- ⊗ Please keep all medications out of the reach of children.
- ⊗ The majority of topical medications can be stored in a cupboard out of direct sunlight. You will be advised if any of the medications prescribed need to be kept in the fridge.