

THE ANIMAL OPHTHALMOLOGY CENTER

TIPS FOR MEDICATING THE EYE

1. Always apply medication to a clean eye:

Ophthalmic solutions (eye drops) and ointments should always be applied to a clean eye. Mucus and discharge that is adherent to the eyelid, or dried on the hair around the eye, should be removed using warm tap water and a cotton ball before medications are applied. Avoid using an abrasive cloth (washcloth, paper towel) to remove debris from the eyelids or surrounding area. Gently blot, do not scrub, around and below the eye with a moistened cotton ball .

2. Order to apply different eye medications:

If more than one eye medication is being administered, the order of applying eye medications is from the most liquid (solutions/eye drops) to the least liquid (ointments). If more than one solution (eye drop) is being administered to the eye at any given time, allow at least five minutes between each medication. If solutions (eye drops) and ointments are scheduled at the same time, solutions should be administered at least five minutes before ointments are applied. When more than one ointment is being applied, they can be administered at the same time.

3. Treatment schedule:

Often times, long-term success is directly dependent upon a strict medication schedule. A treatment schedule is based on a 24-hour period of time. We understand that you must work and sleep and therefore recommend spreading the schedule out during your waking hours starting when you first wake up and ending the schedule before going to bed. Try to adhere to the scheduled treatment schedule as much as possible.

4. On the day of your next appointment:

Be certain to apply eye medications to your pet's eye(s) on the day of your next appointment unless otherwise instructed. The ophthalmologist will be evaluating how the eye is responding to the medication(s). Some medications effect the eye for only a short period of time after they are applied. It is much more important that the ophthalmologist evaluate your pet's eye after it has been medicated, rather than how it appears when not medicated.

Important points to remember:

- Do not use medication prescribed for one pet on another pet
- Remember which is the right eye and which is the left eye (see photos below)
- Animals (and humans) often rub at the eye immediately after it is medicated-this is normal.
- If your pet is squinting, appears uncomfortable, or if excessive redness is noted, call immediately
- If you have any questions concerning medications or instructions please contact us.



How to apply drops

1. Tip animal's head so nose is pointing up (see diagram)
2. Allow one drop to fall into the eye
3. Keep the bottle three to four inches from the eye
4. Never apply more than one drop unless instructed otherwise



How to apply ointments

1. Pull down the lower lid
2. Squeeze 1/8 inch strip into the inner surface of the lid or third eyelid, not the eyeball.