

TIPS FOR ADMINISTERING ORAL MEDICATIONS TO YOUR PET

The easiest way to administer your pet a tablet is to hide it in a favorite food—peanut butter, hot dog bites, canned soft food, etc. or using a Pill Pocket™:

Option 1: Prepare 5 or 6 small treats of your choice (*please check the medication label as some medications should not be given with dairy products*). Initially, offer a “blank” treat (one that does not contain a tablet). If your pet eats this treat, then place the tablet in another treat—but before administering it, have several other “blank” treats ready to offer immediately after offering the treat containing the tablet. By doing so, your pet will not notice that you’ve just fed him one with a tablet inside.

Option 2: If your pet is an enthusiastic eater, you may mix it into his food by hiding it in peanut butter, small amount of canned food, etc.

Option 3: Some tablets can be crushed and mixed into your pet's food or a favorite treat. Please check to ensure the medication is not a time-release tablet before doing so.

If you are unable to hide the medication using the above methods, please follow these step-by-step instructions on how to give your pet a tablet directly.

1. Make sure your pet is in a sitting or laying down position. *Cats may have to be swaddled carefully in a blanket to keep you from getting scratched.*
2. Use one hand to pry open mouth by placing thumb and middle finger on each side of the muzzle behind the canine teeth to pry upper jaw open.
3. With opposite hand, use thumb and index finger to hold pill, while middle finger pulls down on lower jaw to open mouth, then drop pill on back of tongue.
4. Keep the mouth closed until your pet swallows: Use one hand to hold muzzle under pet's chin and point nose up while gently rubbing your pet's throat with other hand until pet swallows and licks lips. *Tip: Gently blow on your pet's nose to encourage swallowing.*
5. Only after your pet swallows and licks lips, remove restraint. Give praise and a small treat.

Important points to remember:

- Most oral medications require that they are administered with food. Please read label carefully as there may be special instructions marked on the bottle.
- If your pet is vomiting, and/or having diarrhea, please call us or your regular veterinarian immediately.