

# Topical eye treatments

- Keep this leaflet safe, as you may need to refer to it again.
- Please ask your vet or veterinary nurse if you have any further questions.
- This medicine has been prescribed for *your* pet ONLY. Do not use it yourself or give it to another person or any other animal; it may harm them even if their symptoms appear to be the same.

This leaflet applies to a range of drugs that are applied to the eye. They include preparations that contain antibiotics, steroids, hormones and drugs that affect the functioning of the eye in various ways. Some of these preparations contain more than one drug. Many preparations are not authorized for veterinary use; however, a few are. Topical eye treatments are sold under a wide variety of trade names.

## How do I give topical eye treatments to my pet?

Topical eye treatments are not painful to your pet, but the sensation of drops/ointment touching the eye may be unpleasant. Try to administer the drops/ointment just before feeding or other normal activity that your pet enjoys. It is important to reinforce your pet's good behaviour with lots of praise and stroking. If at first your pet does not co-operate, be patient and try again a few minutes later. Even nervous pets will usually get used to the procedure. However, if you think your pet is likely to bite you during the procedure then you should consider the use of a muzzle.



### Eye drops

- Gently push your pet's head upwards using a thumb under their bottom jaw.
- Hold the top eyelid open with the first finger on the same hand.
- Hold the bottle containing the eye drops in the other hand and, bringing that hand from behind and over your pet's head, direct the nozzle towards the eye, keeping it at an angle (i.e. not perpendicular to the surface of the eye).
- Squeeze the bottle gently to administer the number of drops that your vet prescribed.
- **Take care not to touch the surface of the eye with the bottle and avoid touching the bottle nozzle with your fingers.**
- Hold your pet's head in this upward position for a few seconds to allow the eye drops to be absorbed.
- Wipe any excess drops off the bottle using clean tissue paper before replacing the cover.



### Eye ointment

- Pull the lower eyelid down gently and squeeze the ointment along the inside of the eyelid, keeping the nozzle almost parallel to the surface of the eye at all times.
- **Take care not to touch the surface of the eye with the tube and avoid touching the tube nozzle with your fingers.**
- Gently close the eyelids and massage to help disperse the ointment, but take care not to apply pressure to the eyeball.

### The Prescribing Cascade

Some topical eye treatments are authorized for use in dogs/cats/pets. However, on occasion, your veterinary surgeon will need to prescribe a medicine not authorized in veterinary species. In these cases, the medicine is authorized for use in human patients and is being used by vets under the 'prescribing cascade'. The medicine is not authorized by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD), an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), for use in dogs/cats/pets. Your vet can explain the 'prescribing cascade' in further detail to you and also explain why they are prescribing this drug for your pet. You will be asked to sign a consent form stating that you understand the reasons that the drug is being prescribed and its possible complications, before the treatment is issued.

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