

Prescriptions: Administration



Giving medications to your pet is not always as simple as we may hope. While some pets will enthusiastically eat anything offered to them, others will fight it at every attempt, no matter how creative. Keep in mind most medications are bitter in taste, and your pet does not fully understand what is going on. However, medications prescribed by your veterinarian are important for your pet's health. They can be the cure to a simple urinary tract infection, or prolong the life of a pet in heart failure. For those pets that will not eagerly take their medications, there are several clever ways to administer them.

Mixing medications with your pet's food:

This would be the simplest way to administer your pet's medications. This typically works best with wet food, or a food that you know your pet will eat completely. Simply place the tablet into your pet's food and mix. If the medication comes in capsule form, you can break open the capsule, and sprinkle the powder onto your pet's food. Upon completion, make sure your pet has successfully eaten all food and medication. If your pet is a "grazer" or "picky" eater, this is not your best method for you.



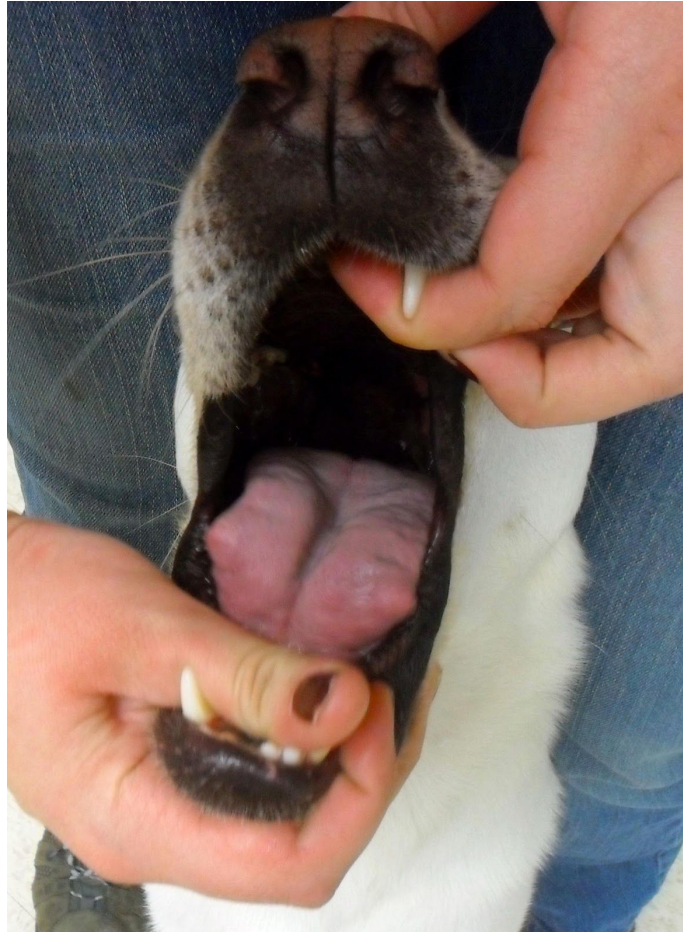
Pill Pockets:

Pill Pockets are a great option if your pet enjoys treats. These specialized treats are designed so that your pet's medication(s) is/are easily hidden inside the treat. They come in a variety of flavors, and are sold at most veterinary clinics and/or pet stores. They also come in allergy formulas. If you do not have Pill Pockets readily available to you, you can also wrap your pet's medication in a piece of cheese, deli meat, or glob of peanut butter. Keep in mind human foods are not always the healthiest option for your pet, especially those who are over weight or prone to pancreatitis.



The “Shove” Method:

This method is not as harsh as it sounds. For pets that will not tolerate the bitter taste of medications in their food, or are too clever for the Pill Pockets, this method is typically best. First, open your pet's mouth, and place the pill or capsule as far back into the mouth as you can. Close your pet's mouth, and tilt his/her head up while gently blowing into their nose. Your pet will eventually swallow the medication. It may take more than one attempt for some pets. There are also pill pushers that operate with the same concept, except you use the pill pusher to put the medication into your pet's mouth rather than your fingers (for our "nippy" friends or the "land sharks"):).



The “Crush and Mix” Method:

This method is pretty self explanatory. This method is best for those stubborn pets who will not take treats, and those who refuse to swallow medications. If your pet's medication is in tablet form, simply crush the pill into powder form. If it comes in capsule form, simply break open the capsule, and pour contents out. Next, you want to transfer the medication contents into a syringe (preferably 5-12cc size), add water, tuna or oyster juice, or broth. Mix thoroughly. Administer the medication "slurry" by mouth. You can also try crushing the medications, and mixing with peanut butter or a soft food that you know your pet will eat.

