

FELINE MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION AND TRACKING

Counselors should pay attention to any special notes written on the prescription/conveyed by med techs and write them down on the corresponding med tracker. For example, medications like doxycycline need to be given on a full stomach, sucralfate needs to be given in a slurry rather than in pill form, ivermectin is light-sensitive, etc. Make sure to fill out a tracker for every medication that is given!

The following is an example of a med tracker:

Animal Name/Number _____
 Medication _____
 Treatment For _____
 Dosage _____
 Frequency _____

8am														
12pm														
4pm														
8pm														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14

Administering Medications

Hands should be sanitized before and after each medication is administered. In appropriate cases, gloves should be used to protect your own skin.

Oral Medications

1. Place one thumb and forefinger on either side of the cat's face from above and behind the whiskers.
2. Apply gentle pressure at the space between the teeth.
3. As the cat's mouth opens, press down on the lower jaw and deposit the pill well to the back of the tongue.
4. Close the mouth and massage or rub the throat until the cat swallows.
5. Always follow up the pill by giving the cat at least 1cc of water from a syringe. This helps the pill enter the stomach where it can take effect rather than remaining in the esophagus where it can cause damage.

Pills that sit in the esophagus may cause vomiting or even irritation to the tissues lining the esophagus. This is true for capsules as well as pills.

Tips for Medicating Difficult Kitties:

- Wrapping the cat in a towel to make a kitty burrito can make pilling easier.
- Grab a partner if pilling a specific cat is difficult to do alone!
- It is up to you to ensure that oral meds are actually swallowed! Rub the throat after pilling to encourage swallowing. Blowing softly into the cat's nose or face will also cause many cats to gulp or swallow. If the cat licks his nose, it's likely the pill has been swallowed.
- If the cat loves treats, it's possible to hide a pill in a pill pocket. Make sure you watch the cat actually eat the pill pocket before assuming that your work medicating the cat is

finished. If the cat does not fall for the pill pocket trick (and a great many will not), you will have to medicate the cat orally in the traditional ways.

- As a last resort, it is sometimes possible to hide a pill (whole or crushed) in a small amount of wet food. The danger with this method is that the cat may not eat all of the food and thus will not receive all of the medication they need. This method is primarily used for cats who cannot be touched and are unresponsive to pill pockets.

Administering Eye Drops

1. After placing one hand under the cat's chin, lift his head and gently pull down the lower eye with your thumb. This creates a little pocket between the eye and the lower lid.
2. Hold the bottle between the thumb and forefinger of your other hand and gently hold the upper eyelid open with the heel of your hand.
3. Squeeze one or two drops out of the bottle into the little pocket or onto the surface of the eye.
4. If you can't get the drops into the pocket, try to apply the drops onto the white of the eye rather than the colored part, as this is more comfortable for the cat.

Be careful not to touch the bottle to the cat's eye when administering eye drops as you could injure the eye and/or carry the infection to the other eye.

Administering Ear Drops

1. Gently pull the ear flap back, squeeze out the correct amount of solution and apply it to the lowest part of the ear canal.
2. Gently massage the base of the ear to help work the medication deeper into the canal.

Checking A Cat's Temperature

1. Before you begin, get out all the supplies you'll need: thermometer, a lubricant, alcohol and paper towel to clean the thermometer
2. To use a digital thermometer, turn it on. Wait until the thermometer reads "L" to insert into the cat's body.
3. Coat the tip of the thermometer with a lubricant.
4. Have a helper restrain your cat with the hind end facing you. Or if you are alone, cradle your cat's body firmly against you with one arm.
5. Gently lift the tail and slowly insert the thermometer into the anus. Gently twist the thermometer from side to side to get the muscles to relax. Once this occurs, insert the thermometer about one inch into the rectum, but do not force it.
6. Remove a digital thermometer when you hear the beep.
7. Remove and clean the thermometer with alcohol.

Normal: 100.4 to 102.5 degrees F

Fever cannot be diagnosed by touching the cat's nose, ears, etc. Symptoms that often coincide with fever: loss of appetite, lethargy, decreased grooming.