

Different classes of medication

Your vet may prescribe different medications for different issues.

Some of the common ones are:

NON-STEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUGS (NSAIDs) – there are a few different types, but they all reduce pain, swelling or inflammation and some reduce fever. They are considered reasonably safe and very effective.

ANTIBIOTICS – there are a huge array of different groups which target different bugs. If your pet has an infection present it will be given the best choice for the situation. We need to be very careful with how we use antibiotics due to the development of resistant bacteria – known as “SUPER BUGS”.

PAIN MEDICATIONS – if your vet feels that NSAIDs are not quite enough to cover the pain associated with your pet's issue they may be prescribed stronger pain relief medications eg. “tramadol” or “gabapentin”.

CORTICOSTEROIDS – These medications are common especially in allergy and immune mediated issues in pets. They provide anti-inflammatory properties as well as blocking the bodies mechanisms reacting to a trigger. They also provide some degree of pain relief.



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Your Pet's Medication

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Side effects

Side effects can occur when your pet is given any type of medication.

If your pet becomes unwell or you suspect your pet is having a problem it is advisable to contact your vet.

Common side effects include:

- + reduction in appetite
- + vomiting
- + change in bowel movements, such as diarrhoea or dark or bloody stools
- + change in drinking habits - changes to the volume or frequency of drinking
- + sleepiness or sedation
- + change in frequency and amount of urinating or blood in urine.

These symptoms may also be associated with the illness that your pet has, or surgical procedure or anaesthetic that may have occurred. Please discuss with your vet any concerns before continuing, or altering, the prescribed dose or frequency.

Do not change dose or frequency without asking your vet first.



Course of treatment

Vets prescribe medications for the period of time that is appropriate.

It is important to follow any recommendations concerning this to ensure an optimum outcome. If the medication seems ineffective or any symptoms return when the medication finishes contact your vet to organise a revisit examination and re-evaluation of your pet's requirements.

Other medications

Always discuss any medication that your pet is currently taking before starting any new medication, this may be prescription or over the counter medicines. Some medications, when taken together may increase the likelihood of side effects occurring.



Laboratory tests

Your vet may consider it important to conduct laboratory tests to monitor your pet's health when starting or continuing any medication.

These tests are important to ensure the continued safety if on long term medication. Your vet will assess your pet's current health together with known risk factors for side effects when considering the importance of these tests.

Remember

Every effort is made to ensure veterinary medicines are safe and effective. Always follow the instructions given to you by the vet to minimise any risk.

Contact your vet if you are concerned about any issues regarding medications your pet is prescribed.

