

Prescription Medications

The primary focus of our practice is centered on delivering professional and compassionate veterinary care to help responsible pet owners who are in financial need through a variety of low-cost programs. In addition to these professional services, we also carry a small amount of medications and products for your pets.

We carry these items in our practice primarily for two reasons:

- Many drugs are formulated specifically for animals or are for animals only, and often can not be found locally at human pharmacies.
- When a pet owner visits with their pet it is more convenient to be able to have the items available onsite rather than going to another location just to sit and wait for prescriptions to be filled elsewhere.

Our staff works hard to be sure that our vaccines, pharmaceuticals and other products are properly handled and stored from the time they are sent from the initial manufacturer until they are dispensed to our patients.

Dispensing medications:

Federal law restricts us from dispensing medications without a client patient relationship. Therefore, we will not provide prescription medications for patients when they have not been evaluated by our hospital --even when those prescriptions are written by other veterinarians or veterinary hospitals. This would require a separate Pharmacy Dispensing License which veterinary hospitals generally do not possess. Although some veterinary practices may fill prescriptions for non-patients this is technically a violation of both Board of Pharmacy and Veterinary Medical Board statutes. We simply will not violate regulatory statutes.

Online and Catalog Pharmacies:

We also understand that the economy has hit many families hard and know there are many internet sites and catalogue houses which sell pharmaceutical products directly to consumers. In many cases, we might be lower when you include the free doses or manufacturer rebates. Because of this we recommend that you check prices before ordering.

It is our practice policy to provide written prescriptions to our clients at their request. We do not charge a fee for writing prescriptions for our patients. We do, however wish for your decision on where to have your pet's prescription filled to be an informed one, and feel it is part of our responsibility as your pet's doctor to advise you consider the following:

1. We will provide a written prescription on request provided we have recently examined your pet and the particular medication or product is appropriate. The written prescription will be provided directly to you. **You will need to pick up this written prescription at our office, as we are unable to mail it to you or fax authorizations.**
2. If you order from an internet or catalogue source, we recommend you copy your written prescription and mail them the original. This allows our physical prescription form to be used so it can be traced back and authenticated in the event medication error, failure or reaction occurs.
3. Carefully select your choice of pharmacy thoroughly researching for disciplinary board of pharmacy actions. Some internet based pharmacies and catalogue companies have been repeatedly reprimanded by the FDA and State Boards of Pharmacy for violating prescribing procedure. Several well known companies have been cited and fined repeatedly for the same violations in the same states or several states!
4. Pharmaceuticals manufactured and labeled for use in other countries have been illegally diverted and sold through some internet sources and catalogues in the United States. In addition, counterfeit medications, preventatives and product have been produced and sold to unsuspecting consumers. The FDA-CVM has documented these problems with the use of some internet sources. Please do your research when purchasing form online or catalogs.