

Why is antibiotic resistance important?

Antibiotic resistance is a major problem in human medicine with MRSA being the most well known example, although there are many other kinds of resistant bacteria around. Problems with antibiotic resistance are now being seen in our pets as well.

Antibiotics are divided into classes or families of drugs which work in similar ways. Often once bacteria become resistant to one family of antibiotics, they will go on to become resistant to other families, which means that doctors and vets have fewer, or in some cases, no antibiotics left to treat the bacteria. This can be a serious problem for

people in hospitals with life-threatening infections, or for those whose immune systems aren't working as well as they should be.

One thing that has been shown to help bacteria become resistant to antibiotics is not using the antibiotics properly. This is why vets and doctors will only prescribe antibiotics if they think there is a bacterial infection present, and why it is important to follow instructions carefully. This is all part of what is called 'appropriate use of antibiotics'. For more information visit www.itsinfectious.co.uk.

Signature de l'Association
Vétquinol

Used incorrectly, antibiotics may contribute to the spread of antibiotic resistance. For more information about antibiotic resistance go to www.itsinfectious.co.uk



Your pet has been prescribed antibiotics



What are antibiotics?

Antibiotics are medications which kill bacteria or stop them growing. They don't have any effect on viruses. There are many different types of antibiotic available and they all work in different ways. Your vet has prescribed the one they think will work best for your pet.

Antibiotics may come as tablets, capsules or a liquid to be given by mouth. They may also take the form of topical medications, such as ear drops or creams.

How do I give the antibiotics?

It is important to give antibiotics correctly to make sure they work effectively, and to avoid antibiotic resistance. This is when bacteria develop a way of avoiding being treated by an antibiotic, so the antibiotic will no longer work. This can happen when the antibiotic is not given at a high enough dose or for long enough.

To make sure your antibiotics work effectively:

- Give the correct amount as directed by your vet.
- Give at the correct time – if medication is to be given twice daily, give it at as close to 12 hour intervals as you can, not at breakfast and tea time. Similarly, for three times daily, give at 8 hour intervals.
- Give for the correct length of time - even if your pet seems to be better, don't stop before the end of the prescribed course.
- Follow any specific instructions given by your vet for example whether medication should be given with or without food.
- Always go back to your vet for any scheduled recheck appointments – your vet may wish to prescribe a longer course of antibiotics if the infection has not fully cleared.

The correct dosage and instructions should be on the label of your pet's medication, and can also be filled in by your vet in the section below.



Personalised instructions for your pet's antibiotics

(To be completed by your vet)

Your pet has been prescribed..... (antibiotic) for(condition).

Please give (amount) times daily.

Please give for days/weeks*.

Please book an appointment for a recheck indays/weeks* time.

*Delete as appropriate

Antibiotic diary

You can use the chart below to tick off when you have given each dose of antibiotic. There is also a section to write down any comments if you notice any changes in your pet's condition during the treatment.

Day number	Dose 1	Dose 2*	Comments
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			