

## Safe Handling of Chemotherapy Agents

Your pet is receiving / has received a medication that is classified as a chemotherapy drug. It is understandable to be concerned about the potential risks from exposure to chemotherapy when your pet is receiving treatment for cancer. Specific risks to owners caring for their pets are unknown but some degree of contamination of the environment is expected. The information below provides guidelines to help minimize risk to you and your family.

### General Recommendations:

This medication should only be handled with gloves, specifically chemotherapy-rated gloves. Hands should be washed after removing gloves. Those who are pregnant, trying to become pregnant, or are breastfeeding should not handle this medication. This medication should not be stored near human medication, near food, or anywhere that can be accessed by children.

### Handling Bodily Fluids:

Bodily fluids from your animal, including saliva, urine, feces, and vomit can contain small amounts of this medication after treatment. Your animal should not be allowed to urinate or defecate in areas where children play. If your animal should urinate, defecate, or vomit in the house, use gloves and a 10% bleach solution to clean it up. Soiled bedding or clothing should be washed twice in hot water. Pregnant women should avoid handling of urine and feces, even with gloves. These recommendations should be followed for as long as 7 days after the last dose of oral chemotherapy medication.

### Other Protective Measures:

Chemotherapy tablets should not be split or crushed and capsules should not be opened. Confirm that your pet swallows the medication. If your pet refuses to take the medication, it can be hidden in a pill pocket or a treat. Empty vials or syringes should be returned to the clinic for proper disposal.

*If your animal is taken to another veterinarian during the course of treatment, you should inform them that your animal is receiving chemotherapy.*

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your physician or the University of Illinois Medication Dispensary at 217-333-5329.