

Safe Handling of Hazardous Agents

Your pet is receiving / has received a medication that is classified as a hazardous drug. Anyone handling these medications should avoid skin, eye, oral, or inhalation contact with the medication. It is understandable to be concerned about the potential risks from exposure to hazardous drugs. Specific risks to owners caring for their pets are unknown but some degree of contamination to the surrounding environment is expected with handling. The information below provides guidelines to help minimize risk to you and your family.

Background Information:

Hazardous drugs that are **not** chemotherapy agents receive their classification in one of two ways. This includes exhibiting one or more of the following six characteristics: carcinogenicity, teratogenicity or other developmental toxicity, reproductive toxicity, organ toxicity at low doses, genotoxicity, or having a structure and toxicity profile that mimics an existing drug determined hazardous by the above criteria or by posing a reproductive risk to men and women who are actively trying to conceive and women who are pregnant or breast feeding. These can include antiviral drugs, hormones, bio-engineered drugs, and some miscellaneous drugs. Other risks with long-term exposure include skin irritation and allergic reactions. Although risks are **extremely low** with administering medication to your animal, it is recommended to take precautions since long-term consequences are not fully understood.

General Recommendations:

This medication should only be handled with gloves and 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.

Other Protective Measures:

This medication 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.

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