



Medication Dispensary

Safety First

Specific risks to owners caring for their pets are unknown, but some degree of contamination to the surrounding environment is expected when handling any hazardous material.

The information in this flier provides guidelines to help minimize risk and educate pet owners about handling hazardous medicine.



Associated Risks

Although risks are extremely low with administering medication to your pet, it is safer to take precautions.

Long-term consequences of handling hazardous agents are not fully understood, but common risks associated with exposure include skin irritation and allergic reactions.

What Makes a Hazardous Drug Hazardous?

Hazardous drugs that aren't chemotherapy agents can be classified in one of two ways. If a drug exhibits one or more of the following six characteristics, it may be classified as hazardous:

1. Carcinogenicity
2. Teratogenicity or other developmental toxicity
3. Reproductive toxicity
4. Organ toxicity at low doses
5. Genotoxicity
6. A structure and toxicity profile that mimics an existing hazardous drug

The second classification method questions if the drug poses a reproductive risk to:

1. Men and women actively trying to conceive
2. Women who are pregnant or breastfeeding

Examples of hazardous drugs under these classifications include some antiviral drugs, hormones, and bio-engineered drugs.

Protective Measures

Safety should be the priority while handling hazardous agents. The following procedures are essential for the health of your pet, family, and self:

- **Use gloves when handling the medication.** Gloves act as a barrier between your skin and the hazardous materials.
- **Avoid contact with your eyes, ears, nose, mouth, and skin while handling the toxic agent.** Reducing spread to high-risk areas will prevent any further contamination.
- **Wash your hands after removing used gloves.** This guarantees your hands are free from any contamination following medication administration.
- **Do not store hazardous agents near food, children, or other medicines.** This helps reduce cross-contamination and poisoning.
- **Do not split or crush pills and capsules.** Hazardous materials can contaminate surfaces and spread easily through touch, ingestion, or inhalation.
- **Confirm that your pet swallows the medication.** If your pet refuses to ingest the medication, you can hide it in a treat or pill pocket.

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

VETERINARY TEACHING HOSPITAL

Large Animal Clinic

Emergency, specialty, and primary care for horses and farm animals
1102 W. Hazelwood Drive, Urbana
(217) 333-2000

Small Animal Clinic

Emergency and specialty services for small companion animals
1008 W. Hazelwood Drive, Urbana
(217) 333-5300

South Clinic

Health and wellness care for dogs, cats, and zoological pets
2100 Goodwin Avenue, Urbana
(217) 244-2555

Midwest Equine

Equine-only practice that provides equine veterinary and farrier services
20844 Cumberland Road, Farmer City
(309) 928-2127