

Administering Transdermal Medication to Your Pet's Ear

Tips for Applying Transdermal Medicine

To ensure you and your pet's safety, we recommend the following:

- Wear gloves. This protects your pet from any bacteria that may be on your hand. Be especially vigilant if you or your pet have an open wound.
- Apply the prescribed amount of medication to the pinna of one ear.
 Overapplication or underapplication can result in adverse effects. If you suspect you have been over or underdosing your pet, please contact your vet.
- Rub the medication in completely.
 This ensures that the medicine will effectively do its job.
- Alternate ears with each dose. This, along with cleaning the ear prior to each dose, is the most effective way to combat irritation. Irritation is the most common adverse side effect of transdermal medicine application.
- Clean the ear prior to applying the next dose. You can use water or a generic ear cleaning solution to clean the area.
- Keep small children and other pets away from the application site for at least two hours after each dose.
 Additionally, be aware if your dog scratches or rubs their ear on furniture or outside.
- Distract your pet with enticing stimuli during administration. While your pet's attention is kept by a toy or treat, you can swiftly administer the medication. This creates a safe, enticing



Step-by-Step: How to Apply Transdermal Medication to Your Pet's Ear

Administering transdermal medication can be daunting. This breakdown explains how to safely and effectively administer medication to your pet's ear.

- 1. Situate your pet in a comfortable position that allows you to reach the ear. You want your pet to be comfortable, but unable to squirm away.
- 2. Clean out the pinna of the ear. The pinna is the curved outer ear structure made of cartilage the part you can see without looking into the ear canal.
- 3. Use the syringe to apply the prescribed dosage on the pinna of the ear.
- 4. Rub the medication into the pinna using gloved or thoroughly washed hands.
- 5. Keep children and other pets away from the ear for at least two hours while the medication absorbs.

For a video guide, please scan QR code or visit https://go.illinois.edu/AdministeringTransdermalMeds





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