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Pilling your Pet

Eventually, there is going to come a time when you are going to have to give your pet a medication. Whether it is a liquid or a tablet, the thought of pilling your pet may give you a feeling of dread. Below are some tips and tricks on how to make sure that your pet is getting the med-

Methods of Pilling

There are several methods that you can try in order to get your pets to take their medications:

- Hiding the medication in food can often mask the taste of the medication. This can also act as a treat for your pet, and turn the pilling experience into a positive one.
- For more stubborn pets, you can try hiding a tablet in peanut butter. Place the peanut butter on a tongue depressor or other stick-like object. Once you have the tablet covered in peanut butter, rub the peanut butter and pill along the roof of the mouth and close your pet's mouth. Your pet will be so busy licking the sticky peanut butter off the roof of their mouth, they will hardly pay attention to the tablet hidden there!
- A "Pet Piller" is essentially like a syringe. The piller is a long stick, with the tablet going on one end and a plunger located on the other end. Place the pill end of the piller into the pet's mouth, towards the back of the throat. Once the plunger is deployed, the tablet is placed towards the back of the throat. Close your pet's mouth, and wait for your pet to swallow.
- Some pets absolutely will not take tablets. If the tablet does not come in a liquid form, ask your vet if a compounded liquid medication is a possibility. Compounded medications (both tablets and liquids) can come in a variety of flavors, from chicken to bacon to fish! Furthermore, some medications come in transdermal forms, which can be placed on the inner ear (pinna) and can be absorbed into the bloodstream.

It is important to remember that what works for one pet may not work for another pet. Furthermore, what may work one day may not always work the next. Experimenting with the different methods mentioned above may be needed in order to make sure that your pet gets all of his/her medication for the entire time period the medication is prescribed.



If you have any further questions about fleas, please feel free to reach out to me or one of our staff members!

Best regards,
Rachel Rielinger, DVM



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