

TIPS FOR MEDICATING A CAT



If your veterinarian has prescribed medicine for your cat, you might have questions about how to give it to your cat. The medicine can come in different forms, and options for giving each of these types of medicine to your cat.

Types of Medication

1. **Tablets** or **capsules** which your cat swallows and can be flavored.
2. **Liquids** that your cat swallows which can be flavored.
3. **Injections, flavored chews, ear creams** (to wipe on the skin inside the ear), and **pain patches** are other less common forms of medication.



Tablets and Capsules

Use a moldable pill treat

These are soft, putty-like treats with a space for a pill. They are sold in pet supply stores or at your veterinary practice, and come in flavors like chicken or salmon. Put the pill in the treat, pinch it closed, and offer it to your cat. Many cats won't even notice there's medicine inside. Try giving your cat a moldable treat before they need medication so they'll be used to them.



Hide the medicine in a lickable treat

Check with your veterinarian first, but you may be able to hide the pill in liquid/lickable cat treats (which come in a tube), yogurt, ice cream, cream, butter, tuna in water, soft cheese, or some other treat that your cat loves but never usually gets.

Hide the medicine in a pile of treats

If your cat LOVES treats, try hiding the pill in a pile of treats. You can also insert and conceal the medication in a moldable pill treat, and then crush up your cat's favorite dry treat and roll the moldable pill treat in the crushed treat.

Visit catfriendly.com/medication for more tips and information!

Liquid Medications

Give directly by mouth

Cats have a tooth-free space behind the upper canine (fang) teeth, so this is a good place to put the syringe. Ask your veterinarian to show you how to do it.



Hide in a soft lickable treat

Liquid medicines can be unflavored, lightly flavored, or flavored. Ask your veterinarian if the medicine tastes bad and if it can have a flavor added, which many cats prefer. If the medicine does not taste bad, it can be mixed into a soft lickable treat.



Never place medication in your cat's regular food as they could start to dislike their food. This can be extremely harmful to your cat's regular eating habits, especially if they are on a therapeutic diet.

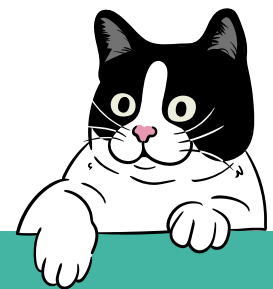
Pilling

"Pilling" is the term for putting the tablet or capsule at the back of the cat's mouth and forcing the cat to swallow it. Not only is this unpleasant for you and your cat, but it might not even be an option with some medicines. **Never pill your cat with just the pill.** It is important to help the pill move down to the stomach:

 **Wrap pill in thin layer of a moldable pill treat**

 **Follow pill with syringe of water**

 **Feed your cat after pilling**



SKIP THE PILLER

Cat "piller" gadgets can be dangerous, possibly hurting the back of your cat's mouth. Plus, as you now know, the medicine should be given with some food or treats in order for it to move to the stomach.

Caring for your cat means sometimes having to give them medication they don't like. Try these methods until you find one that works for you and your cat. If your cat stops responding to one method, try another option. Always consult your veterinarian if you have any questions about how to give medicine to your cat.

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