



Safe Chemotherapy Handling:

Tips and Information for safe handling of your pet's chemotherapy

About your pet's chemotherapy

Chemotherapy medications are used to destroy cancer cells. They can also damage normal cells in the body and cause side effects. These medications leave your pet's body in both urine and feces. They can still be in an active form when they leave the body.

It is very important to know how to properly handle and dispose of chemotherapy medications and pet waste, to help decrease the risk of unnecessary chemotherapy exposure to you and others.

Safe handling

Pregnant women should **NOT** handle any chemotherapy medications, nor handle and dispose of waste from animals receiving treatment.

If administering oral chemotherapy at home:

- Store all chemotherapy medications in their **original** containers. Keep away from food and children.
- **Wear gloves** while handling and administering the medication.
- When giving the medication, watch to make sure that your pet swallows the medication and does not spit it out.
- After giving the medication, remove the gloves and place them in a sealable plastic container or bag (**zip-close bag**) and throw away in the regular trash.
- **Wash your hands** after removing and disposing of your gloves.



Waste disposal

Wear gloves when cleaning or handling any pet waste, such as feces, urine, or vomit.

How to dispose of feces:

- Flush down the toilet, and flush the toilet two or three times after the waste, or
- Place it in a sealable plastic bag (zip-close bag), and dispose of in the trash.
 - Always use two bags.
 - Place feces or other waste items in one zip-close bag, make sure it is tightly sealed, then place that into a second zip-close bag.
 - Seal the second bag tightly, and dispose of the waste in the trash.

How to dispose of paper towels soiled (wet) from urine or vomit:

- Place in a sealed plastic bag (zip-close bag) and then throw away in the regular trash.
- Spray and clean up household areas that are soiled (wet) by waste with bleach or Lysol.
- Any rags or towels used, wet bedding, clothing or rugs should be washed separately from other laundry.

Extra safety tips

Follow these precautions for at least 2 to 3 days after the last dose of the chemotherapy is given.

Cat Urine and Feces:

- Clean the litter box daily.
- Dispose of litter in a sealable plastic container (zip-close bag).
- Cats should not share a litter box.

Dog Urine and Feces:

- Using a leash, limit your dog to one area of the yard and clean up feces as soon as possible.
- Keep other pets and people away from this area.
- Dispose of feces in a sealable plastic container
 - Sealable plastic containers include zip-close bags