



Handling Hazardous Medications:

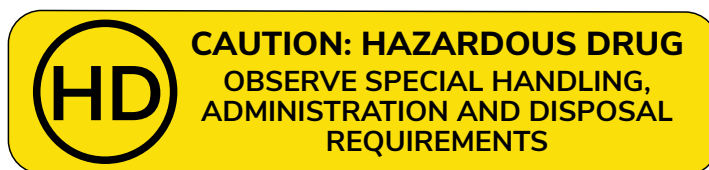
Tips and Information for storing and disposing of your pet's hazardous medications

About Hazardous Medications

- Hazardous drugs are labeled as hazardous because they are known or suspected to cause adverse health effects to humans and animals if they are improperly exposed to them. However, they can be a very beneficial prescriptions at the appropriate doses.
- **ALL** hazardous medications are dispensed with a medication guide. Please read the medication guide and the section "Can handling this medication be hazardous to me, my family or other animals?" for more information.
- It is very important to make sure you read and follow all of the precaution and warning labels on the medication bottle before administering a hazardous drug to your pet.
- The goal is to limit exposure to the medication for people or pets who do not need the medication.

Safe handling

- Pregnant women should **NOT** handle any chemotherapy medications and many hazardous drugs, nor handle and dispose of waste from animals.
- **Wear gloves** while handling and administering the medication.
- When administering the medication, watch to make sure that your pet swallows the medication and does not spit it out.
- After administration, 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.



Safe storage

- Store all hazardous medications in their **original** containers. Keep away from food and children.
- Keep the hazardous medication stored **away from other medications** and away from moisture
 - For example, do not store hazardous medications in the kitchen or bathroom.
- If the medication needs to be kept in the refrigerator, **keep it separated** from other items.
 - For example, empty out a drawer and keep the medication in there alone.

Medication and waste disposal

- Dispose of used gloves and oral syringes in a sealable plastic container (**zip-close bag**). Tightly seal the plastic bag and place it in your regular trash can.
 - Sealable plastic containers include zip-close bags
 - Always use two bags.
 - Place waste items (gloves and oral syringes) 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.
- Unused medications can be dropped off at **Medication Drop Off sites**.
- By disposing of medications properly, it helps keep them out of water sources and keeps our communities safer. **Never flush unwanted or unused medications down the toilet.**

Please see our brochure on 'Medication Disposal' for further instructions.

Making Medication Administration Easier

Giving medications to pets can be a very challenging and scary experience. In order to keep both yourself and your pet safe, it is important that you know how to restrain them prior to giving medicine. If you are not familiar with proper restraint techniques, please request our flier, *Keeping Yourself and Your Pet Safe When Giving Medications: How to restrain your pet*.

You should use proper restraint techniques when you give eye drops, ear drops and injections. It may also be necessary when giving pills to your pet. Having a routine prior to giving medicine can make it a more positive experience for your pet, which will eventually make it an easier process.

If you feel uncomfortable injecting medications, do not be afraid to **ask for help!**

If your pet is very FEARFUL or AGGRESSIVE when administering medications, please contact the Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center Behavioral Medicine department for more information at 614-292-4655 or OSUVET.BehaviorMedicine@osu.edu.

Helpful Tips

- Be calm and confident. Acting nervous or making sudden movements may make your pet more anxious about the process.
- If your dog has a history of biting or aggression, it may be necessary to apply a muzzle.
- Having a second person who can hold the animal and give them treats can make it easier for you to focus on giving the medication.
- Refer to our Behavioral Medicine department for great tips and training tricks to help ease this process!

This handout is intended to provide general information.

*If you have **specific questions**, please contact the Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center Pharmacy at **614-292-1010**.*