

How to “Pill” your Pet (Cats and Dogs):

Tips and Information on Administering Oral Medications

Using a treat or food

- Giving medications to your pet can be very difficult. To make it easier, first try hiding it in food.
 - Some medications cannot be mixed or given with food. Ask your veterinarian or pharmacist if it is OK for your pet's medication to be given with food.
- Hide the medication in the center of the food, or mold a small portion of it around the medication.
- You can hide the tablet or capsule in a food that your pet loves, such as:
 - Soft meats
 - Soft cheese
 - Tuna, ham, deli meat
 - Wet canned food
 - Pill pockets
- Some medications can also be crushed and mixed with a small amount of water or wet food to make it easier to hide it.
 - *Some tablets and capsules should not be broken or crushed; please ask your veterinarian or pharmacist about breaking or crushing medications before administering them to your pets.*

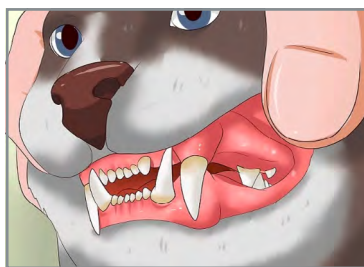
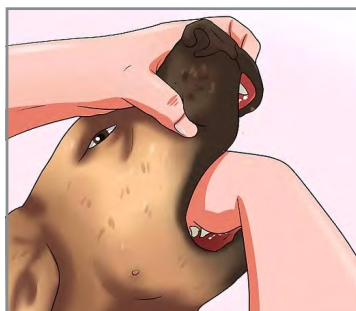
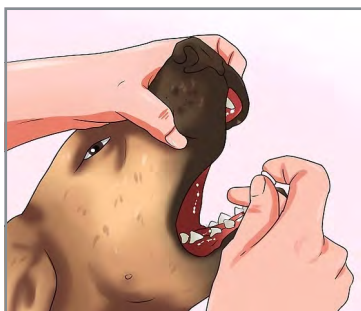
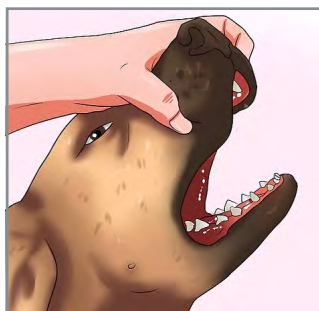
Giving oral medications by hand

If your pet refuses to eat food with medication in it, you may have to place the medication in your pet's mouth by hand. To do that, follow these steps:

1. Hold your pet's face with one hand; place your thumb on one side of the upper jaw and your fingers on the other side.
2. In the other hand, have the medication between your pointer finger and thumb and use any of the other free fingers to open the lower jaw.
3. Reach your hand into the back of your pet's mouth and place the medication on top of the tongue as far back as possible.
4. Quickly close your pet's mouth, hold it shut, and make them swallow by rubbing their throat or gently blowing into their nose.

There is also a device called a pet piller (or pill gun) you can use to give your pet oral medications.

- Simply load a tablet or capsule into the device, place the pill gun into the back of your pet's mouth, and release the medication into their throat.



You may need to safely restrain your pet before giving medications by hand. If you are not familiar with proper restraint techniques, please request our flier, *How to Restrain Your Pet: Keeping Yourself and Your Pet Safe When Giving Medications*.