



Antibacterials

Antibiotics: getting the course right

Your vet has prescribed an antibiotic for your pet. Antibiotics either kill bacteria or stop them multiplying, giving your pet's immune system the upper hand. The label on your pet's medicine always comes first, so keep this with it and ask us anything you're unsure about.

What is it used for?

- Treating infections caused by bacteria, such as skin, ear, wound, urinary and chest infections.
- Antibiotics do not work against viruses, so they are only prescribed when your vet thinks they are needed.

How quickly does it work?

- Most pets start to feel better within 2 to 3 days, but the infection isn't gone yet.

How do I give it?

- Give exactly the amount and timing on the label. Some are best given with food, others on an empty stomach.
- Liquids should be shaken well. Some need to be kept in the fridge, so check the label.
- Space doses evenly through the day.

What if I miss a dose?

- Give it when you remember, unless the next dose is nearly due. In that case skip the missed one.
- Never give two doses together to catch up.
- Always finish the full course, even if your pet seems better.
- If your pet vomits soon after a dose, call us before giving another.

Possible side effects

- Mild tummy upsets, such as vomiting or loose stools, are the most common.
- Reduced appetite, especially with bitter-tasting liquids in cats.

Monitoring and check-ups

- Your vet may want a recheck or repeat test near the end of the course, especially for urine or skin infections.

Important things to know

- Never save leftover antibiotics or share them with other pets. Return unused medicine to us.
- Using antibiotics carefully helps stop them becoming less effective for all pets and people.
- Tell your vet if your pet has ever reacted badly to an antibiotic.
- Tell your vet about any other medicines, supplements or flea and worm treatments your pet has.
- Store safely out of reach of children and other pets. This medicine is for your pet only.

Your questions answered

- **Can I stop once my pet seems better?** No. Stopping early can let the infection come back stronger.
- **Will a probiotic help?** It may help with tummy upsets. Ask us which one is suitable.

Call us straight away on 01843 808344 (24/7) if:

- Your pet has repeated vomiting or diarrhoea, or blood in either.
- Your pet has swelling of the face, hives, or sudden difficulty breathing.
- You think your pet (or anyone else) has taken too much.

Mango's Top Tip

Can't remember whether you've given the dose? Tick it off on a chart on the fridge. It stops double-dosing and missed doses.