



# GIVING MEDICINES TO PETS

## **Make sure you understand what you are supposed to do**

Before you carry out any medication on your pet, just go through in your mind what the vet has told you to do. Read the label on the box or bottle and make sure it agrees with what you remember.

- Should the medicine be refrigerated?
- How often should you give the medicine, and when?
- When should you stop giving the medicine?
- Do you feel confident about giving the medicine?

If you are at all unsure about what to do, give us a quick call – we will be happy to talk you through it one more time.

## **Giving a tablet to a dog**

You may be able to give this straight to them or hide it in their food. If not, have your dog sit at your side. Place one hand on the dog's upper jaw and press its lips gently against the sides of its teeth with your fingers. With your other hand, pull the lower jaw down and place the pill on the base of your dog's tongue, far back in the mouth. Close the dog's mouth, return its head to normal position, and encourage it to swallow by massaging its throat.

## **Giving a tablet to a cat**

Put your cat on a towel on a table or on a rug on the floor – this gives it something to cling on to. Gently open its mouth and insert the pill right at the back of its tongue. If the cat tries to scratch you, wrap its body and legs in a towel, leaving only its head sticking out. You can open a cat's mouth by applying gentle pressure with your thumb and forefinger on either side of its face at the space between its teeth. Close the cat's mouth, return its head to normal position, and encourage it to swallow or by massaging its throat.

Some animals will take a pill in a small amount of food. You must be sure that they swallow it, as some pets will appear to have eaten something only to spit it out when you are not looking.

## **Giving liquid medicines**

Gently pull the corner of your pet's mouth away from the face to form a "pocket". Slowly give a small amount of the liquid. Allow your pet to swallow before giving more liquid. Do not squirt all the medication into your pet's mouth at once. If the condition worsens or does not improve as expected, contact us.

**Always complete any course of medication even if your pet 'appears' to be back to normal, unless advised otherwise.**

## **Contact:**

### **ARK VET CLINICS**

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**Holytown, 14 Main Street, Holytown, ML1 4TA Telephone: 01698 732858**