

HOW DO I APPLY EYE MEDICATIONS?

It is important to store eye medications correctly. All need to be stored below 25°C. Some need to be kept in the fridge (including Chloramphenicol, Xalatan until opened and Serum). The majority need to be discarded 28 days after opening, but some expire sooner.

Eye medications may be drops, gels or ointments. Where a combination of these formulations has been dispensed, first apply the drops, then the gel, then the ointment.

Gently invert the dropper bottle a couple of times to make the suspension uniform.

The animals head should be slightly elevated. This is achieved by placing one hand under the chin. The other hand holds the dropper bottle, and this hand may rest against the animals forehead in order to steady it, and to feel if the animal is going to make a sudden movement.

The drop or ointment should be applied to the centre of the cornea (the clear window of the eye). If the drop misses the eye, another attempt can be made straight away.



Care should be taken that the nozzle does not come into contact with the cornea. This is to prevent trauma to the eye but also in order to keep the nozzle clean.

One drop is all that is required. A strip the size of a rice grain is all that is required when applying ointment.

The animal should be allowed to blink, and where possible the head should remain slightly elevated for one minute.

Where multiple medications are dispensed, allow at least five minutes between each application.



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It is useful to distract the animal immediately after applying eye medication to stop them from rubbing at the eye. Feeding a meal or a treat, or taking them for a walk may provide a good distraction. Some animals will have a buster (Elizabethan) collar which prevents them from traumatizing the eye.

A standard 5ml bottle of eye drops contains approximately 100 drops.

By regularly applying eye drops, you get a chance to check the appearance of the eye. If any changes concerns you, please contact your vet immediately.