



OPHTHALMOLOGY REFERRALS

Miss Sally Turner | MA VetMB DVOphtal MRCVS | RCVS Specialist in Veterinary Ophthalmology

How to Apply Eye Medication

It is very important that you are able to apply eye drops or ointment properly to ensure the best outcome for your pet's eye condition. You should ensure that you apply it as frequently as has been recommended.

Applying the medication

It is always useful to have someone to hold the dog or cat for you if at all possible.

Hold the head firmly but gently under the chin and tilt the nose upwards.

Remove any dried discharge from the corners of the eye with a piece of cotton wool moistened with clean water or saline solution. Ensure that no wisps of cotton wool touch the eye itself.

Applying ointment

If eye ointment has been supplied in a tube, do not point the nozzle directly at the eye. Gently part the lids between your finger and thumb and holding the tube with the nozzle parallel to the eye and approximately half a centimetre from the eye, gently squeeze a small amount of ointment across the already held open eye. Your pet will immediately close his eye. Gently stroke your fingers across the closed lids to disperse the ointment which will rapidly liquefy when in contact with the warm tears.



Applying eye drops

If a liquid has been prescribed the technique is, if anything, a little easier. The lids are parted as before and the nozzle is held vertically, approximately half a centimetre above the eye and one drop gently ejected on to the eyeball. Following this the procedure is exactly the same.

General Tips

If you rest the hand holding the eye preparation on the pet's head, above and behind the eye, you will find it easier to get the medication into the eye. Also if the pet moves its head, you will be moving with it, and thus will be less likely to waste medication.

In some cases you will have been prescribed more than one eye preparation for your pet. If this is the case you must leave 5-10 minutes between different applications to ensure that each is effective and they do not just wash each other out. If more than one medication has been dispensed always apply drops before ointments or gels.

If you are struggling to manage with the treatment regime please contact us and one of our nurses will be happy to demonstrate the easiest technique and ensure that you master the method!