

Verona Veterinary Medical Service, S.C.

Spring 2009

655 Half Mile Rd • Verona, WI 53593 • 608-845-6512 • www.veronvetmed.com

INTERNET MEDICATIONS

You see the ads that say you can buy medications online for less than you can at your veterinary clinic... but what are the facts? Very often, the online pharmacies are more expensive than your clinic, especially after rebates and free doses are factored in. For example, only veterinary clinics offer \$5.00 rebates on 12 packs of Heartgard and a free dose of Frontline when 6 are purchased. Internet pharmacies can't pass these savings along because they do not obtain the medications from the manufacturer. They must go through a third party to obtain them. The manufacturers of most veterinary medications won't sell their products to online pharmacies because they don't know how the meds will be stored. Most medication is temperature-sensitive and excessive heat or cold will inactivate it. The manufacturers will not guarantee a product purchased online, so if a pet has an adverse reaction or develops heartworm disease while on such a product, there is no recourse for the consumer.

Since medications for pets are not regulated in the same ways as medications for humans, many problems have occurred with online pharmacies. Some have sold expired, inactive and even fake "medication". Many have sold prescription medications without prescriptions from a veterinarian, in direct violation of federal law. Many have been sued by disgruntled pet owners and several states have won class-action lawsuits against them.

At Verona Veterinary Medical Service, we strive to provide the best value and highest quality products. We receive our medications directly from the manufacturer and their guarantees apply to our patients. We also work with a compounding pharmacy that makes heartworm prevention for dogs that includes protection against whipworms and tapeworms in addition to the hookworm and roundworm protection provided by Heartgard. It is slightly less expensive for dogs over 50 pounds than Heartgard, and comparable in cost for dogs under 50 pounds. If a client requests a prescription to be used online despite these risks, there is a \$12.00 fee for this service since the online pharmacies have no doctors on staff to address concerns with the products.

EAR INFECTIONS

Ear mite medications sold in pet stores can be harmful (and very painful!) when applied to pets' ears that have yeast or bacterial infections. We occasionally see ear mites in puppies and kittens but rarely in adult pets. Adult dogs in particular, frequently develop yeast and/or bacterial infections which may produce a lot of dark brown debris. Many people mistake this for the debris produced by mites, and apply ear mite medication which often makes the infection much worse and can cause ulcerations in the ear canals. In general, it is not advisable to use an ear mite medication unless it has been diagnosed that mites are causing the problem.

HUMAN MEDICATIONS AND YOUR PETS

Remember that most over-the-counter human medications are NOT safe to give to dogs and cats. Ibuprofen, Tylenol, Naproxen and other anti-inflammatories can cause severe kidney or liver damage and even death in pets. Aspirin is tolerated by some dogs, but it should only be used when prescribed by a veterinarian. Fortunately, there are now many medications made specifically for pain relief in cats and dogs, available from veterinarians.

ANNA'S GROOMING TIP: ALLERGIES AND GROOMING

Dogs and cats can be itchy in winter months as well as during seasonal allergy months. Dry air can affect their skin just like a human's. The skin can get dry, flaky, and itchy, but lotion will make the hair oily and harder to take care of.

Medicated shampoos and conditioners can be used to help ease the irritated skin and bring relief to your pet. They will also help alleviate the dandruff. Most medicated shampoos and conditioners have oatmeal as the main ingredient, so if your pet has any allergies to oatmeal, be sure to let your groomer know. Your pet groomer should be aware of all medical conditions your pet may have. If your pet has the tendency to be affected by seasonal allergies, medicated shampoos and conditioners can help your pet's itchiness during those times, as well. Seasonal allergy symptoms can be excessive scratching, licking of legs and paws, or ears becoming dirty or infected. Consult your regular veterinarian for additional treatments besides medicated baths.



655 Half Mile Rd • Verona, WI 53593 • Ph. 608.845.6512

Fax. 608.848.5906 • www.veronvetmed.com

*It is important to keep your companions free of intestinal parasites and fleas, YEAR ROUND.