

What is the best way to give medication to my dog?

Patience, timing and caution are all required for you to effectively medicate your pet. Be careful since many times that pets are receiving medication they are hurt or scared and the chance of them biting you increases, so always keep yourself safe. The following are some general tips depending on the type of medication being administered.

Tablet or capsule – hiding medication is always the easiest option, be sure to use either a canned meatball or prescription food if your dog is on a special diet or very small amounts of peanut butter or cheese. Tasty dough and special treat pockets are also made to hide medications and are usually available through your veterinarian or local pet supply store. If you need to administer the medication directly, place one hand on the upper jaw and press the lips gently against the teeth then with the other hand pull the lower jaw down and place the medication on the back of the tongue. Then, close the jaws and wait for your pet to swallow. Sometimes massaging the base of the throat or blowing in your pet's nose will help stimulate them to swallow.

Liquid medication – pull the corner of the lips out and a small pouch will form, squirt the liquid into this pouch. Give the liquid slowly as the dog swallows

Ear medication – pull the ear flap up and away from the dog's head then apply drops or ointment into the ear canal itself and massage at the base of the ear to distribute the medication down the ear canal

Eye medication – use your thumb to pull down the lower eyelid. With your other hand, place the medication in the pouch of the lower lid using caution not to touch the tip of the applicator to the eyelid or eyeball. Release the lower lid and use thumb and forefinger to close the eye to distribute the medication

Make sure you wash your hands after administering any medications to your pet.