

# How to Give Your Cat Liquid Medicine

- Liquid medications are prescribed to treat a variety of conditions.
- It is important to use only medicines prescribed by a veterinarian and to treat for the full length of time prescribed.
- Do not stop treatment early, even if the problem seems to be resolved.

### The Basics

Liquid medications are prescribed to treat a variety of conditions. Some medicines that are usually prescribed as pills or capsules can be changed (compounded) to a liquid for easier administration. If you have trouble giving your cat pills, ask your veterinarian if compounding is possible for specific medicines.

### Follow Recommendations

It is important to use only medicines prescribed by a veterinarian and to treat for the full length of time prescribed. Do not stop treatment early, even if the problem seems to be resolved. You can ask your veterinarian to demonstrate how to give the prescribed medicine.

### Technique

- Liquid medications should come with a dropper or syringe for administration. Fill the dropper or syringe with the prescribed amount of medicine.

- Holding your cat's head still with one hand, insert the tip of the dropper or syringe into a corner of the mouth, between the cheek and the teeth, aiming toward the back of your cat's head.
- **Do not** tilt your cat's head back; this may cause him or her to inhale the medicine.
- Squeeze the dropper or syringe to empty it.
- Hold your cat's mouth closed and stroke his or her throat (or blow on his or her nose) to encourage swallowing.
- Give your cat a reward (like a treat approved by your veterinarian) to make it a more pleasant experience.

**Contact your veterinarian if you have questions or difficulty administering any medication.**

### Restraining Your Cat

You may need help keeping your cat still while you administer medicine. If you don't have a helper handy, you may want to wrap your cat in a large towel and hold him or her against your body, leaving only the head free. Be sure not to wrap your cat too tightly.

If your cat struggles, talk to him or her calmly. Stop if he or she becomes extremely agitated.