



Helpful Tips for Ophthalmic Medications

1. Medications should be **spread out during waking hours**, unless specifically instructed. **It is important to give medications the frequency that is instructed.** They do not have to be separated an exact amount of time.
 - a. For example, 3 times a day could mean morning, dinner, and bedtime – they do not have to be exactly 8 hours apart.
2. Medications must be **separated by a minimum of 5 minutes** so that one medication can absorb before the next is applied to the eye.
3. **Drops should always be given before gel or ointments**, as the latter take longer to absorb.
4. Medications can be applied to any part of the eye surface and will disperse across the eye as the patient blinks. They don't have to be give directly to the area being treated. You do not have to pry your pet's eye open to give a drop – try applying it to the inner corner or only lifting the upper lid to gain an opening to apply drops.
5. Most oral medications are best tolerated when given with food, unless instructed otherwise by a veterinarian. These can be tablets, capsules, or liquid form.

Medication Refills – many ophthalmic medications are used long term to keep eye disease controlled. **A yearly exam is required to keep your pet's prescriptions current.**

1. **Blue Ridge Veterinary Eye** – we have an online pharmacy (<https://blueridgeveteye.ourvet.com>) where you can order medication refills that will be shipped to your home. You can even set up an autoship for long term medications.
2. **Stokes Pharmacy** – This is our preferred pharmacy for compounded medications. Many of these are long term medications. We typically fill an unlimited number of refills for 1 year once we know the medication is right for your pet. You can contact Stokes directly at 1-800-754-5222 or refill@stokespharmacy.com when you need a refill or set up an autoship.
3. **Local Pharmacy** – some medications can be filled at your local pharmacy like Walgreens, CVS, or Ingles. These pharmacies keep a lot of ophthalmic medications in stock, but do not always have the best price for pet medications. Prices can vary a lot between pharmacies.
 - a. GoodRx is a discount website/card that can help find the cheapest local pharmacy for that particular medication. There are some pharmacies that will not accept GoodRx discounts for pets.
4. An **annual exam is required, by law**, to refill medications. If it has been longer than a year, we will need to schedule a recheck appointment before we can refill your pet's medication.
5. Please be sure your prescription does not expire/you do not run out of medications on a weekend as **we cannot complete refill requests after hours.**