Administering Ophthalmic (Eye) Medications

**Administering Ointments**
1. Wash your hands.
2. Talk to your pet in a happy voice and take him to a convenient location, along with the medication.
3. **For dogs:** Place your dog's hindquarters against something so he cannot back away from you. Some people have found they have better control if they place the dog on a surface up above the floor. If you do so, make sure you have assistance, so the dog will not jump or fall off the table and hurt himself. The person assisting you should hold the dog around the shoulders and chest.
4. **For cats, small pets, and large birds:** Sometimes it is helpful to wrap the pet in a blanket or towel so just her head is sticking out. For cats and rabbits, place the pet's hindquarters against something so she cannot back away from you; or after wrapping in a towel, it may help to place the animal between your knees as you sit on the floor. Some people like to place the pet more at eye level - on a table. In some cases, it may be necessary for a person to assist you in holding your pet while you give the medication.
5. If discharge is present, the area should be cleansed with a sterile eyewash solution prior to applying the medication.
6. Remove the cap from the tube of medication and place it on a clean surface.
7. Place one hand under and around your pet's chin and lift upward, so the pet's eyes are looking towards the ceiling.
8. Pull down gently on the lower lid with a finger or thumb, depending upon which eye you are treating.
9. Rest your other hand, holding the medication, on top of your pet's head. Be sure the tip of the tube is pointed away from your pet's eye so if your pet jerks, the tube tip will not injure the eye.
10. Hold the tube of ointment about one inch from the eye and apply a short ribbon of ointment along the inner edge of the lower lid, starting at the inside corner of the eye.
11. Rotate the tube when you reach the outer portion of the eye to help detach the ointment from the tube.
12. Gently massage the closed eyelid to disperse the ointment. Ointments will blur your animal's vision for a few minutes after administration. Prevent your pet from bumping into things and becoming injured.
13. Give your pet plenty of praise, and possibly a treat. This will make next time easier. And remember, the quicker you can give the medication, the easier it is on both of you.
14. Place the cap back on the tube.
15. Wash your hands.

**Administering Drops**
1. Wash your hands.
2. Talk to your pet in a happy voice and take her to a convenient location, along with the medication.
3. **For dogs:** Place your dog's hindquarters against something so he cannot back away from you. Some people have found they have better control if they place the dog on a surface up above the floor. If you do so, make sure you have assistance, so the dog will not jump or fall off the table and hurt himself. The person assisting you should hold the dog around the shoulders and chest.
4. **For cats, small pets, and large birds:** Sometimes it is helpful to wrap the pet in a blanket or towel so just her head is sticking out. For cats and rabbits, place the pet's hindquarters against something so she cannot back away from you; or after wrapping in a towel, it may help to place the animal between your knees as you sit on the floor. Some people like to place them more at eye level - on a table. In some cases, it may be necessary for a person to assist you in holding your pet while you give the medication.
5. If discharge is present, the area should be cleansed with a sterile eyewash solution prior to applying the medication.
6. Remove the cap from the bottle of medication and place it on a clean surface.
7. Gently massage the closed eyelid to disperse the ointment. Ointments will blur your animal's vision for a few minutes after administration. Prevent your pet from bumping into things and becoming injured.
8. Rest your other hand, holding the medication, on top of your pet's head. Be sure the tip of the bottle is pointed away from your pet's eye so if your pet jerks, the tube tip will not injure the eye.
9. Hold the bottle of drops about one inch from the eye and squeeze the drops into the corner of the eye, taking care not to touch the dropper to the eye surface. Continue to hold the head back for a moment while the drops disperse over the whole eye surface.
10. Give your pet plenty of praise, and possibly a treat. This will make next time easier. And remember, the quicker you can give the medication, the easier it is on both of you.
11. Place the cap back on the bottle.
12. Wash your hands.
13. If the medication needs to be refrigerated, return it to the refrigerator.

**Precautions**
- Consult your veterinarian regarding eye examinations and laboratory testing necessary prior to and during treatment with ophthalmic ointments.
- Never touch the tip of the tube or dropper to the pet's eye, lids, or eyelashes. Do not touch the inside of the cap or the dropper or tube tip with your fingers, as this will also contaminate the medication.
- If you are applying more than one medication to the eye, allow 5 minutes between applications so one medication is not washed out by the next. Be sure not to interchange the caps of the medications.
- Always follow the dosage instructions provided by your veterinarian. If you have difficulty applying the medication, contact your veterinarian.
- Some medications may cause the eye to sting for a short time when first applied.
- If you miss a dose, apply it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the application you missed and go back to the regular schedule.
- The medication should only be given to the pet for whom it was prescribed.
- Keep all medications out of the reach of children and pets.

This information may not cover all possible uses, directions, side effects, precautions, allergic reactions, drug interactions, or withdrawal times. Always consult your own veterinarian for specific advice concerning the treatment of your pet.