

Guide to veterinary written prescriptions



When it comes to medications for our patients, we understand that the costs can add up, insurance limits can be reached and finances can be a struggle.

You may obtain relevant medications from the veterinary surgeon or you may request a written prescription to obtain the medication elsewhere.

Written prescriptions are valid for 6 months from the date the prescription was written, so medications must be purchased within this time. The veterinary surgeon will only prescribe a medication following a clinical assessment of an animal under his or her care: a prescription may be authorised between 1-6 repeat purchases. However a written prescription may not be appropriate if the treatment is required to begin immediately or prescribed for a short period of time. Please don't hesitate to discuss this with us, our staff are happy to help in any way possible.

A written prescription may be used at other veterinary practices in the UK, in pharmacies (if the medication prescribed is for human use when there is no suitable veterinary alternative) or from prescription services online. We advise that when using pharmacies to be aware that they are not open at weekends, they may require 48 hours notice and you can only use your prescription at one pharmacy, so make sure it is local to your home.

We advise when using online suppliers that you make sure they have accreditations from the VMD (Veterinary Medicines Directorate). The website/supplier will be classed as an "accredited online animal medicine retailer" or as part of the "accredited internet retailer scheme (AIRS)". This reduces risks of purchasing fake medications or using fraudulent internet sites.

Common premises known for being able to authorise veterinary medicine include:

Pet drugs online
Pet prescriptions
Animed direct
365vet
Vio vet

The full list of suppliers may be found at:

<https://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/InternetRetailers/accredited-retailers.aspx>

You will be required to register your details with them and you may only use your prescription at one of these websites. Please ensure you remember your login and password details and check their delivery costs and shipping options/timings. We cannot assist you in forgotten passwords or delayed shipping.

Some may not allow or accept returns so please research the retailer of choice before providing them with your written prescription. We are not responsible for price changes or delivery errors from other suppliers/services.

There is a standard admin fee for the written prescription from Eye Vet, however most owners will still make a considerable saving.

It is a criminal offence to forge/alter a prescription or to use a prescription inappropriately.

When the practice is aware of a medication shortage in the UK, the veterinary surgeon may alter the prescription from the brand name (e.g Acular) to the generic name/active ingredient (e.g Ketorolac trometamol) to ensure you are able to purchase the SAME medication; this might alter cost of the medication. If you have any questions regarding this please do not hesitate to ask.

We are often asked why our prices are not the same as online prices. This is because we do not hold a wholesaler licence to buy medication in large quantities and we are legally prevented in doing so.

Having a prescription for 6 months still requires your pet to be re-checked/reviewed by a veterinary surgeon. This is because health conditions can change which means that medication doses may need to be altered or stopped completely; which can only be addressed by examining your pet. We legally cannot prescribe medications without seeing your pet within the last 6 months.

We do ask you to report to us if you are seeing any changes to your pet's condition or if any possible adverse reaction to medication is seen. This can occur at any time and should be addressed as soon as possible. Please inform us of any new medications your pet has been prescribed to prevent unwanted symptoms caused by interaction with other medicinal products or contra-indications.