



Animal Health Care Center *of Hershey*

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How to Medicate Your Dog:



Giving medication can be a challenge. Giving the medication properly, ensuring that your pet gets what is prescribed, is very important for your dog's health.

Step 1

Place the pill between the thumb and the index finger of one hand. Firmly grasp the upper jaw with the thumb and index finger of the other hand.

Step 2

Gently fold the upper lip over the teeth as you open the mouth. This will reduce the chance of being bitten.

Step 3

Rotate your wrist to tilt the head upwards. Use your middle finger to slowly open the lower jaw.

Step 4

Keep your middle finger over the small incisor teeth and deposit the pill as far back on the tongue as possible. Immediately close the mouth. Keeping your hand over the mouth, put the head down to facilitate swallowing.

Step 5

Stroke the throat or blow on the nose to encourage swallowing.

Helpful hints

Always read the label instructions carefully. Ask your veterinarian if the medication can be given with food or must be given on an empty stomach. If it can be given with food, just put the pill into a small piece of cheese or a treat. Get a friend or family member to help. Medicate your dog on the floor or on a table with a non-slip surface. When administering medication stay calm - your pet can sense if you are nervous making it more difficult to apply the treatment. Always praise and reward your pet with a treat.