



Cleary Lake Veterinary Hospital
www.clearylakevets.com
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Small Animal Edition

May 2010

Online Pharmacy Information

Are you considering ordering your pet's medications online? Not all online pharmacies are created equally. Some online companies are fronts for businesses breaking federal law. They are more interested in making money than the safety of their medications. Medications may be stored in conditions not recommended by the manufacturer. Our online store has been researched & approved by our veterinarians.

Check the FDA's recommendations for more information.

<http://www.fda.gov/animalveterinary/resourcesforyou/AnimalHealthLiteracy/ucm203000.htm>

Enter your pet in our Cutest Pet Photo Contest!

Photos must be submitted by July 1st either by email or mail (4x6 only please) with your name, pet's name and phone number. Finalists will be displayed at our open house, July 21st, for judging and the winners will be announced at the end of the night. Contact Becki at 952.435.8387 with any questions!

Flea & Tick Preventatives Safest and Most Effective When Applied Correctly

TV and radio new pieces recently have spotlighted the Environmental Protection Agency's investigation into spot-on flea & tick control products. The EPA's investigation began after an increased number of adverse reactions to these topical products were noted in 2008. Not surprisingly, the newscasts have led to a lot of calls to the clinic. Which preventatives are we recommending?

Our veterinarians recommend Frontline Plus® for the majority of our patients at this time. Why? Because fipronil, one of Frontline's active ingredients, kills the deer tick (*Ixodes scapularis*). In Minnesota and Wisconsin this tiny arthropod is the primary carrier of Lyme disease and Anaplasmosis. Frontline Plus® also knocks out all life stages of the flea, our pets' other backyard nemesis.

Over the years, we've received occasional phone calls about possible reactions to flea & tick preventatives. Thankfully, no situations have been life threatening. Most owners report either skin irritation or hair loss at an application site. A few people have noted vomiting or diarrhea. Of course, much more serious adverse events have been reported to the EPA. Allergic or adverse reactions do happen, but they're nearly impossible to predict. If you have any concerns about any product you've administered, please call the clinic immediately.

Properly using a topical flea & tick product is the best way to keep your family and pets safe—as well as free from disease-carrying ticks & fleas. Here are some important guidelines:

1. Know your pet's exact weight before purchasing any product. Many reported toxicities have been traced to inappropriate dosing. You can always weigh your pet at the clinic for free.
2. Read all directions – then read them again! It's vital that you know how to apply a product. Inadvertent toxicities have occurred because pet owners a product to the wrong species (using a dog product on a cat) or by the wrong route (for instance, having a pet eat a product meant to be applied topical).
3. Be cautious if you have cats and dogs. Some preventatives are very safe for dogs but quite toxic to cats. If you just applied a product top your dog and your cat grooms or rubs the dog, toxicity can occur. Separate pets until the product is dried.
4. Store any product and its packaging on one place. Hang on to the box a few days after applying a product in the event of a delayed reaction.
5. NEVER, ever split product! Don't buy a big dog flea & tick product and apply it to smaller dogs. Too much on one pet can lead to toxicity, while too little on another provides insufficient protection.
6. When in doubt, call for help! If you think you applied a product erroneously, or if your pet develops an adverse reaction, please call the clinic. There is also a medical information hotline listed on product packaging.

-Ann Korbel, DVM