



**Cleary Lake Veterinary Hospital**  
**www.clearylakevets.com**  
**952-435-VETS (8387)**

1. Gently rub the horse's nose and mouth with your fingers, taking care not to be bit. When he is comfortable and relaxed with this, (watch for a lowered head, drooping eyes and ears, and possibly a cocked hind foot) begin to rub the outside of his lips at the corners of his mouth where the syringe will go.
2. Stick your finger or thumb in the corners of his mouth where the bit rests. If he will not accept this, he will not allow a syringe of medication to be placed there either.
3. Take an old syringe or worming tube and rinse it out really well, making sure there is no residue for the horse to taste.
4. Rub the syringe over the horse's nose and mouth, paying special attention to his lips and the corners. When he accepts this without a fuss, dip the end of the tube in karo syrup or applesauce and insert it gently a very short way into his mouth. Repeat this step many times and for several days until he eagerly awaits the syringe.

**\*\*When giving medications you can add a variety of flavors to make it an enjoyable experience. Molasses, Karo Syrup, pancake syrup or sugar free pancake syrup for IR/metabolic horses. Some pills may be dissolved in water (Bute, SMZ) or crushed and put in the grain.**

5. Administer oral medication, praising the horse for accepting it.
6. In between oral medications, repeat steps 4 and 5 every time the horse is handled. This way he will see the medication as the occasional bad bite of grass.

#### **Other tips:**

Praise and use a lot of positive reinforcement for good behavior or any tries on the horse's part. Don't make a big deal out of bad behavior, quickly correct and then move on. If the horse is very resistant, or afraid of one step, go back to the previous step. It may be necessary to review all the previous steps briefly with each training session. Don't put yourself in danger, seek qualified help if necessary.

