

## Mountainview Animal Hospital

### FALL NEWSLETTER

### The bottom Line

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Never give your pet eye medication without consulting your veterinarian first. Certain ingredients in eye medications can make corneal ulcers worse.

Always read the instructions on the vial carefully and give all the medication as directed by your veterinarian.

It may be easier to get the medication ready before you get your pet; holding your pet & opening an eye drop vial at the same time may be a challenge.

Some eye medications may make your cat drool. Don't worry; the drooling will stop as soon as the bad taste goes away.

### HOW TO GIVE YOUR PET EYE DROPS

Infection and injury of the eye is a common problem for many pets. Certain breeds also have a genetic predisposition to chronic eye disease. Giving an animal eye drops can be less challenging than you would think. We hope these instructions will be helpful.



**Step 1:** Get your pet. If you have help, one person should place your cat or small dog on a table or counter and stand behind while holding the shoulders; this prevents the dog from jumping up or the cat from reaching up and scratching the person giving the eye drops.



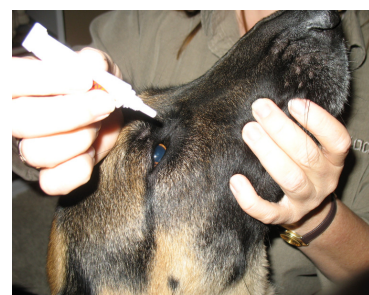
**Tip:** If you are alone, place your cat or small dog in the corner of the sofa to stop him/her from backing away from you, or wrap him/her in a towel. For cats the towel will also wrap up those claws.



**Step 2:** Place one hand beneath your pet's jaw and gently tilt the head up.



**Step 3:** Hold the tube/bottle between the thumb and index finger of other hand. Rest the heel of this hand on the top of your pet's head, just behind the eye you wish to drop the medication into.



## The bottom Line

Genetics can predispose your pet to some diseases of the eye. Cocker Spaniels, Lhasa Apsos, are often victim to a disease called

Keratoconjunctivitis sicca or 'dry eye'. This disease is caused by a lack of tear production. These dogs will suffer from recurrent eye infections, chronic mucoid discharge, eye pain and eventually blindness. If diagnosed early, this condition can be successfully managed with specialized eye ointment.

Red eyes can be a sign of a serious disease and can be caused by many different conditions:

- Bacterial infection
- Viral infection
  - Allergies
  - Glaucoma
- Keratoconjunctivitis Sicca
  - Corneal ulcer
  - Various cancers
    - Pannus
  - Foreign irritants
- High blood pressure

Diagnosing between these conditions requires a veterinarian's knowledge and some specialized tests. If your pet has red eyes please make an appointment to have your pet's eyes checked today.



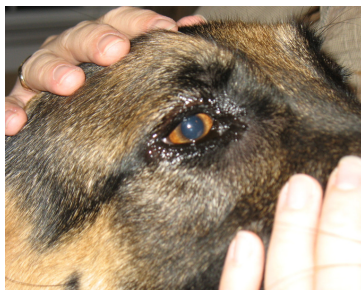
**Step 4:** Now gently use the heel of your hand to pull the skin of the forehead and upper eyelid back.



**Step 5:** Squeeze the bottle and instill one drop into the eye. If you are using an ointment, only 1 mm is necessary.

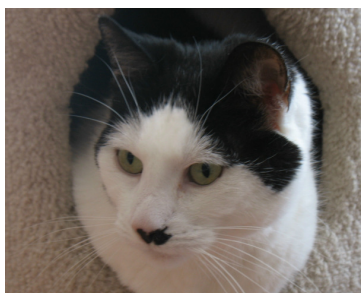


**Tip:** If the ointment doesn't drop into the eye on its own, use the edge of the upper eyelid to separate the ointment from the tip of the tube.



**Step 6:** Release your pet's eye and allow him/her to blink. Blinking will move the medicine around the eye. Some eye ointments will make the eye look a bit greasy.

Repeat on the other eye if necessary.



**Step 7:** Reward your pet for good behaviour with gentle attention or a favourite treat.



**Poison Warning:** Some candies, gums and baked goods contain a new artificial sweetener called Xylitol. Xylitol is toxic to dogs; it can cause a sudden drop in the body's blood sugar level resulting in depression, loss of coordination and seizures.



## Looking for some information on pet care?

Check out past Newsletters on our website  
[www.mountainviewanimalhospital.ca](http://www.mountainviewanimalhospital.ca)

The adjacent chart lists some of the pet care articles that we have written in the past and the corresponding Newsletter Volume in which you can find them.

All cat owners should read 'The Rules According to Cats' on Litter Box Hygiene found in Volume 14, Summer 2007.

If you have an older pet, read Volume 10 and Volume 15 for important tips on how to improve your senior pet's quality of life.

## Learn to recognize the signs of pain:

- Reluctance to walk and play
- Sleeping more
- Difficulty to stand up or lie down
- Hesitation or difficulty in climbing stairs or jumping up
- Sensitivity when you touch your pet's back or legs
- Lagging behind or limping
- Less interaction with the family
- Changes in character or aggression
- Reduced appetite

WANT TO KNOW ABOUT.....	LOOK IN NEWSLETTER
Christmas / Winter season dangers for your pet	Volume 1 - Winter 2001 Volume 6 - Winter 2003 Volume 12 - Winter 2006
Summertime dangers for your pet	Volume 2 - Spring 2002 Volume 13 - Spring 2007
The importance of a physical exam	Volume 4 - Winter 2002
The benefits of pet insurance	Volume 6 - Winter 2003
Christmas gift ideas for pets	Volume 6 - Winter 2003
Leptospirosis disease in dogs	Volume 7 - Spring 2004
"Hot spot" skin infection in dogs	Volume 7 - Spring 2004
Halloween dangers for pets	Volume 8 - Fall 2004
Registered Veterinary Technician as a career	Volume 8 - Fall 2004
Tips for orphaned wildlife care	Volume 9 - Spring 2005
Caring for an older pet	Volume 10 - Winter 2005
Dental care	Volume 11 - Spring 2006
How to brush your pet's teeth	Volume 11 - Spring 2006
Safe / dangerous chew toys for dogs	Volume 11 - Spring 2006
Weight loss in pets	Volume 12 - Winter 2006
The Emergency Veterinary Clinic on Hwy 10	Volume 17 - Fall 2008
Microchip pet identification	Volume 12 - Winter 2006 Volume 18 - Winter 2008
Pet food labels	Volume 13 - Spring 2007
House soiling in cats - Peeing outside the litter box	Volume 14 - Summer 2007
Litter box hygiene	Volume 14 - Summer 2007
Traveling with your pet: by car, by plane or across borders	Volume 14 - Summer 2007
Arthritis pain in animals	Volume 15 - Winter 2007
Tips for senior pet care / Improve their quality of life	Volume 15 - Winter 2007
Advantage of Wellness blood testing in pets	Volume 16 - Spring 2008
Important summertime reminders: Heartworm disease, Kennel cough, Leptospirosis, Fleas	Volume 2, 7, 9, 11, 13, 16, 19 - Most spring editions
Pet Charities: OVC Pet Trust, Farley Foundation	Volume 18 - Winter 2008
How to screen pet advise - Be a critical thinker	Volume 18 - Winter 2008
How to pill a cat	Volume 19 - Spring 2009
How to give eye medication to your pet	Volume 20 - Fall 2009

## LIFE ACCORDING TO NIKE

One of the hardest things for people to recognize is pain in their pets. It is often assumed that if the animal is not vocalizing or whining and their activities are relatively normal then all is well. Well, our Nike can be an example of how false that perception really is. For the past couple of weeks Nike has been limping. We were already giving her omega fatty acids and glucosamine for her arthritis but with this new limp we added a narcotic and an anti-inflammatory to control her pain. We also x-rayed her leg. Nike has severe arthritis in her right elbow; one of the worst I have seen in a cat. Yet, despite the severity of her arthritis, Nike is still jumping on and off the counters to steal our lunches, she is still pushing me out of my chair every chance she gets and she is not whining (unless of course I steal my chair back). So although we have always teased Nike about how much of a spoiled princess she is, she is certainly a 'tough' old princess. Nike is a perfect example of just how vigilant we must be about even the smallest signs of pain in our pets; after all, we do not want our pets to suffer in silence.



## Interesting Facts

The Ontario Veterinary College began in 1864. It was the first University in North America to train Doctors of Veterinary Medicine.



The crest contains the letters O V C to signify the University name, Ontario Veterinary College and the veterinarian's motto, "Opus Veterinum Civibus".

The white wing symbolizes aspiration, service and sacrifice.

The white hand supports the lamp of knowledge. Welding the two together is the caduceus of Aesculapius, traditional symbol of medicine. The scroll beneath carries the veterinarian's motto "Opus Veterinum Civibus". The English translation is "The craft of the veterinarian is for the good of the nation".

## THE BEST THINGS ABOUT BEING A VETERINARIAN

I am often asked how it is that I can do this job; this question usually come after I have given bad news or euthanised a beloved family pet and we are all crying together. Some days I feel like answering "I don't know". This job is not just hard but heartbreaking. Veterinarians work very long busy days, that don't usually end with the closing of the hospital.

Several hours of our evenings and weekends are usually consumed by attending continuing education conferences and reading journal articles on the latest medical research. Despite the downsides, I know no one else that enjoys their jobs the way veterinarians do. This is why:



Purring kittens

Puppy breath

The grumbling noise an angry cat makes when it eats

Thank you cards from happy families

Boxers that lick the air

The happy feet of a contented cat

Wagging tails, especially when the tail controls the whole bum

The rough surface of a cat's tongue

The moment when you remove a foreign object from a sick pet's stomach or intestines

Children's drawings of their pets

Face rubs from happy cats

The way the top of a cat's head smells

The greeting between a pet and its family when he/she is discharged from the hospital

Silly pet tricks

Having the privilege of people entrusting their pet's care to me

Rescuing a homeless pet

Bottle feeding orphaned kittens

Clean white teeth after a dentistry

Hearing a client say their pet is so much happier since the dental procedure

The way a kitten's face almost disappears when it meows

Relieving pain in old arthritic dogs and cats (very satisfying moment)

Dogs who love coming to the vet

Saving a puppy from dying of parvovirus

Receiving Christmas cards from pets

The shape of a paw print

The way a dog cocks its head when you talk to it

Toothy doggy smiles

Watching pets grow up

The first solid poop after a pet has had diarrhea

The referral of a new client by another happy client

The fact that what we do helps the whole family, not just the pet

The moment we see a sick pet turn the corner to good health

Miracles

Watching pets at play

Learning new things every day

Preserving the bond between a family and their pet

The softness of rabbit fur

Reviving puppies or kittens after a cesarean section

The teamwork it takes to run a hospital

Wiggly ferrets

Surgically removing a tumour and curing the cancer

Sloppy dog kisses

A day when everything goes right and the appointment schedule runs on time

Being part of a profession that values hard work, honesty, integrity, continued learning, quality of life, compassion, and animal and human welfare