

UNDERSTANDING ANTIBIOTICS



Antibiotics are powerful medications used to treat bacterial infections. They work by killing bacteria or stopping their growth, helping your pet recover from infections.

However, antibiotics are not effective against viruses, fungi, or non-infectious conditions.

Why Antibiotics Were Not Prescribed Today

Based on today's examination and our current veterinary guidelines:

- No Bacterial Infection: Your pet's condition does not appear to be caused by a bacterial infection. Many illnesses, like colds or viral infections, do not benefit from antibiotic treatment.
- Monitoring and Supportive Care: We may recommend supportive care or monitoring your pet's condition. Often, the body can resolve viral or mild infections on its own without the need for antibiotics.
- Preventing AMR: By not prescribing antibiotics unnecessarily, we help prevent the development of resistant bacteria, ensuring that these medications remain effective when truly needed.

Responsible Prescribing: Why It Matters

Prescribing antibiotics only when necessary is crucial for several reasons:

Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR):

- What is AMR? AMR occurs when bacteria change and become resistant to the effects of antibiotics. This makes infections harder to treat and increases the risk of disease spread, severe illness, and death.
- Why it Matters: Misusing or overusing antibiotics can speed up the development of resistant bacteria. When bacteria become resistant, the antibiotics that are used to kill them no longer work, leading to infections that are more difficult to treat.

Protecting Human and Animal Health:

- Shared Responsibility: Both animals and humans share the same environment, and bacteria can spread between species. The responsible use of antibiotics in pets helps protect not only their health but also that of humans by reducing the risk of spreading resistant bacteria.
- Public Health Impact: Using antibiotics responsibly in animals is a critical part of a global effort to combat AMR. This ensures that these life-saving drugs remain effective for treating serious infections in both people and animals.

What You Can Do

- Follow Our Care Instructions: Ensure you follow the advice given today, including any recommended treatments or follow-up appointments.
- **Observe Your Pet:** Keep an eye on your pet's symptoms. If there is no improvement or if symptoms worsen, please contact us.
- Ask Questions: If you have any concerns or would like more information about why antibiotics were not prescribed, don't hesitate to ask. We are here to support you and your pet.

We are committed to providing the best care for your pet while also considering the broader impact on public health. Responsible antibiotic use is a key part of this commitment. By avoiding unnecessary antibiotic prescriptions, we protect your pet's health, prevent the development of resistant bacteria, and contribute to the well-being of both animals and humans.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact our clinic.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.