**Applying eye medications to your pet**

When applying eye medications, you want to make the process as simple and stress free as possible for both you and your pet. Firstly, make sure to have your eye medications prepared and ready to go. Ensure you have removed the lids or lifted any protection caps, and shaken any eye drop that comes in a suspension for about 10 seconds. If your pet is unlikely to sit still, you may need an assistant to help steady the animal’s head and body while you focus on administering the eye medication.

* **DOGS**: when applying an eye drop, sit your dog still in front of you. If your dog does not willingly sit still, you may need an assistant to help hold them in place. Standing in front of your dog, firmly put one hand around the muzzle and gently tilt their head upright. Holding the eye drop bottle, stretch out either your ring or little finger to gently push the skin above the eye upwards to hold the eyelids open. While doing so, place the bottle above the eye and aim for a drop to fall between the lids and onto the surface of the eye. Alternatively, if your dog reacts when seeing the eye drop bottle, you may try the same technique but approaching the eye from behind. To do so you will position yourself behind your sitting dog to start. One hand will reach below your dog’s chin to gently tilt his head upright. Holding the eye drop bottle, use your ring or little finger to pull the skin above the eye towards you. While doing so, place the bottle above the eye and aim for a drop to fall between the lids and onto the surface of the eye. If applying an eye ointment, you can simply pull down the lower eyelid and apply a ¼ inch strip inside the lower eyelid. Then, let go and gently rub the eyelids together to allow the ointment to spread onto the surface of the eye.
* **CATS**: If your cat is not easily restrained, does not cooperate or might react aggressively, do not risk getting yourself injured. It can be easier to restrain them by wrapping them in a towel or blanket tucking in all four legs and leaving only the head exposed, very much like a “burrito”. This way you will be protected from the claws. Place the “burrito” on your lap between your elbows or ask an assistant to help hold the “burrito” in place. With one hand, reach under your cat’s chin and gently tilt the head upright. Holding the eye drop bottle, use either the ring or little finger to pull the skin above the eye and hold the eyelids open. While doing so, place the bottle above the eye and aim for a drop to fall between the lids and onto the surface of the eye. It is common for cats to shake their heads after receiving an eye drop or foam at the mouth if the drop tastes bitter. Do not be alarmed. If applying an eye ointment, you can simply pull down the lower eyelid and apply a ¼ inch strip inside the lower eyelid. Then, let go and gently rub the eyelids together to allow the ointment to spread onto the surface of the eye.

If applying multiple medications at the same time, always WAIT AT LEAST 5 MINUTES BETWEEN them. Remember to use products in order of their viscosity: first drops, then gels, and last ointments.