

Giving pills to your cat at home: a veterinarian's prescription.

You may never see your cat act more "independently" than when you try to give it pills. But it can be done without too much trouble. Here are some swift tips to make the idea of a pill a lot easier to swallow:



Have someone hold your cat's front legs and chest from behind so you're free to do the rest, or vice versa. If you have trouble, drape a blanket or towel over your cat.



Put your hand on top of the cat's head, avoiding the lower jaw. Raise the head until its nose points to the ceiling. As the mouth opens, use your other hand to hold the pill and press down on the lower jaw, pushing the pill as far back on the tongue as possible.



Close its mouth, making sure you and your partner keep a firm hold, then rub the nose. This will force your cat to lick its own nose, which makes swallowing easier. Don't forget to give plenty of praise each time your cat swallows a pill.

Remember:

1. The more quickly you perform the above steps, the better.
2. Film-coated pills are best. They go down easier and don't dissolve as quickly, which is important if it takes you more than one try.
3. If you can't get the pill down, try disguising it in something your cat loves, such as tuna or cream cheese. Check with your veterinarian, because some medication should not be given with food.
4. Avoid "human" medications like aspirin or acetaminophen which can be harmful or fatal.
5. Always comply fully with your veterinarian's dosing instructions, no matter how quickly your cat seems to be getting better.



Animal Health