

PVTA E- News

Mission Statement

To promote the advancement of certified veterinary technicians and all members of the veterinary team by providing professional development opportunities, serving as their leading advocate, and enhancing public awareness of the exemplary and compassionate care provided to animals by the veterinary profession.



Putting compliance in your hands

How many times have antibiotics been sent home with a pet owner, with very simple instructions as to when to dose the patient and to finish the whole course of treatment? Probably a dozen times a day. How often do we see antibiotic failure in those patients? More often than I would like to think about. So what happened?? Was it the correct bug for the drug? More often than not, yes. Now we have to think about owner compliance. Just because you reviewed the dosing with the owner in the exam room does not mean they will follow your instructions (I am guilty of it too, and I should know better). Unfortunately this situation happens a lot. And let's not forget about Baby, the placid, perfect, Persian who turns in to Lucifer the terrible when trying to pill him; no wonder why the antibiotics were not given. Now there is a unique antibiotic that eliminates both of these situations, Convenia from Pfizer Animal Health. Convenia (cefovecin sodium) is an injectable cephalosporin antibiotic. It is categorized as a group 4 (3rd generation) cephalosporin with broad spectrum activity against G+ and G- organisms. This indicated for dogs and cats for the treatment of skin infections. In dogs, CONVENIA should be administered as a single subcutaneous injection of 3.6 mg/lb (8 mg/kg) body weight. A second subcutaneous injection of 3.6 mg/lb (8 mg/kg) may be administered if response to therapy is not complete. And for cats, CONVENIA should be administered as a single, one-time subcutaneous injection at a dose of 3.6 mg/lb (8 mg/kg) body weight. Each reconstituted vial contains 10 mls of Convenia (conc. 80 mg/ml). One vial will treat 220 pounds of body weight. As an estimate one vial of CONVENIA will treat 20 cats or five 44 pound dogs. Please contact Pfizer Animal Health at 800-366-5288 for any questions regarding this product.

Owner Compliance

Tara Perry CVT, B.S

We all have tough clients that don't follow our instructions for their pet's care, but we also have clients that just have a hard time remembering to (or even administer) medications to their pets. There are lots of different ways to help your clients take the best possible care of their pets. I will touch on two I feel are the most important, medication administration and dispensing, and proper at home care instructions.

Medication Administration

Probably the number one area where clients do not comply, medication administration is a problem for a number of reasons for the owner. Their pet won't take the medication, because he doesn't like the taste, finds the pills hidden in treats, or gets aggressive when medicating. Many of these situations can be remedied. Owners should be showed or explained proper medicating techniques prior to being sent home, and given tips on the best ways to get their pet to take the medication. Cutting tablets may take up additional time for the technician, but many clients are happy to know that the tablets were halved or quartered correctly, especially with small or irregularly shaped pills.

Currently there are a number of pharmacies, local and mail order, which cater to veterinary medication compounding. These pharmacies can compound liquids, capsules, and transdermal preparations in various sizes and strengths. Some patients may be more at ease with taking one form over another or in a more palatable flavor. Specialty compounding pharmacies can deliver right to the owner in most cases, leaving you free from dispensing the medications or keeping a large stock in various forms on hand.



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Owner Compliance Continued



Some companies, like FLAVORx, are now marketing their product lines to the veterinary market as well as humans. Systems can be purchased to compound and flavor different medications with a variety of flavors. This can be a great asset for a mixed practice that sees exotic pets as well as dogs and cats because you can compound a variety of fruit, fishy, or meat flavors. [Go- Home Instructions](#)

Even for basic appointments, it is always helpful to give the owner written instructions that go over what happened at that visit, what is expected of the owner, and when a follow up should be made. For many clinics, the day moves very fast and personalized instructions would be too time consuming to type up. If this is the case perhaps some pre-made instructions for the most common visits that you could circle or write in certain instructions. One quick method is to have a template (with the hospital's letterhead) saved in your normal office software or a word document and cut and paste whichever sections best suit that particular patient.

An Example:

North Ridge Veterinary Clinic
275 Main St. Blue Springs, AZ 18582
Phone: 510-547-8822 Fax:510-547-8800

Patient's Name: XXXXXXXX
Date:XXXXXXXX
Instructions For Ear Care At Home

Daily Care

- Clean ears XXXXX times a day/week with XXXXXXXX cleanser
- Place XXXX drops in each/left/right ear XXXXX times a day for XXXX days/weeks

*In this format you can add in, cut or paste

Follow Up:

- As Needed
 - In one week with technician/doctor
 - No follow up needed
- Call with update to determine recheck time



*This format allows you to circle or highlight one or more bullet points that pertain to that patient.

Even with the best written directions make sure to go over all medication and directions to ensure owners understand what responsibilities they have. With more complex home care (insulin administration, subcutaneous fluids, bladder expression, etc) an in-hospital demo, where you show the client *and* the client practices with you, is an invaluable teaching resource to assure correct care for the patient.

All these plans and ideas aside, some clients just need a heart to heart, to let them know that they can get the best care at the hospital, but at home care is what in the long run will keep their pet happy and healthy.

Questions? Feel free to email Tara at Cat13ny@hotmail.com

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