

PRESCRIBING MEDICATIONS

- From September 1st 2023 the RCVS is bringing in new guidelines for what is deemed 'under our care' to allow vets to prescribe POM-V medications.
- These guidelines are stricter to try and help the appropriate use of anti-parasite and anti-microbial medications (antibiotics, antifungals and antivirals) and controlled drugs (Tramadol, Gabapentin and Phenobarbitone).
- A vet 'MUST' perform a clinical 'examination' (chargeable consultation) prior to prescribing any of the above medications.
- Vets will write in their notes a prescription for POM-V drugs, if another medication (within the above list) is required that is not written then another clinical 'examination' is required.
- For anti-parasite meds the vets will write in their notes the drugs they can have, i.e. 'Prescribe Prinocate 10-25kg x3 repeated 4 times, dosed as 'one pipette applied to the back of the neck once a month''. If the patient requires a different type or the weight range that isn't stated then a clinical examination will be required to write a new prescription.
- Antibiotics cannot be prescribed without a physical examination unless exceptional circumstances – this would include aggressive animals, otherwise we cannot give out anything including ear drops, these rules are very strict now.
- SUMMARY:
 - Someone asks for certain flea/worm product – check back on notes, has a vet written a prescription on the notes in last 12 months, if so proceed to dispensing.
 - If the prescription is there but they want a different product, they will have to pay another consultation for a clinical examination (flea and worm check) – to counter this we are going to try and write prescriptions for all the main products we have in stock.
 - No antibiotics can be prescribed without a consultation including ear drops and creams – this is the law from the RCVS now (NB if they quote the guidelines on line at you, tell them the vets have all received a more in depth copy of these guidelines and this is the rules).
 - Controlled drugs such as Gabapentin, Tramadol and Phenobarb (Soliphen), we are only allowed to prescribe 28 days at a time. We must follow up with clinical assessments – i.e. phone calls before we are allowed to prescribe longer courses. If the vet says they cannot have any more than the 28 days at this time it is because they are following these rules, as the patient is on the medication for a longer period of time we can start extending these times.