

ADMINISTERING DRUGS BY INJECTION

There are several injections that are given at home by owners routinely. Insulin to treat diabetes, allergy hypo-sensitization injections, and Adequan or Pentosan injections for the treatment of arthritis. We will review the technique but the following questions and answers may be of help.

Will the injection be painful?

Most pets don't seem to mind routine injections. Single-use needles ensure that a very sharp needle is used each time. We will prescribe appropriate needles and syringes based on your pet's needs.

What happens if my dog moves when I give the injection?

Ideally have someone assist you while you give the injection. Try offering the pet a treat as a distraction while you administer the injection. By injecting quickly, you can minimize your pet's movement. Most pet owners find that their pet is very cooperative for these life-sustaining injections.

Is there any danger if he doesn't keep still?

Most owners are concerned that they may break the needle off but this is extremely unlikely. The needle may bend but it is much more likely that the injection may end up outside the animal rather than inside. If you are unsure if your pet received the full amount of injection, contact our hospital for instructions. As a general rule, if you're unsure how much you injected, *do not* administer more unless directed by your veterinarian.

Can you explain the exact technique of giving an injection?

Subcutaneous injections are placed just beneath the skin, which is considerably looser in the dog than in humans. You can swab the skin with alcohol to clean and sterilize it prior to injection. Pinch some loose skin between your thumb and forefinger. The syringe is usually held like a pencil with the other hand. The needle is inserted swiftly into the fold of skin, keeping the barrel roughly level with the fold but with the needle angled downwards. Most injections are given in syringes small enough to allow the plunger to be depressed with the palm of the same hand once the needle has been positioned. Administer the contents of the syringe quickly. Once the injection has been completed, the needle is quickly removed and the area massaged. Having someone assist you will make the procedure easier. With a little practice, however, most pet owners find that they have no problems administering routine injections to their pet loved ones.