



MEADOWS VETERINARY CENTRE LTD
Station Road, Oldmeldrum, Aberdeenshire, AB51 0EZ
Tel : 01651 872481 • E-Mail : thevets@meadowsvets.co.uk
Web : www.meadowsvets.ukvol.co.uk

New Rules for Vets Prescribing Medicines To Your Pet

The RCVS, which is the governing body of all veterinary surgeons in the UK, produces a 'Code of Professional Conduct' which all vets working in the UK must follow. They have recently made some important changes to this Code which fully came into force in January 2024.

Before contacting us to request medicines such as flea/wormer, antibiotics or strong-painkillers and epilepsy treatment please read information below. These rule changes WILL affect you.

The new rules mean veterinary practices are no longer allowed to prescribe without having seen the animal for a consultation with a vet except in exceptional circumstances.

This means you may be asked to bring your pet in more regularly for check-ups to allow us to abide by these rules. In most cases an annual check at your pet's vaccination should be adequate for your usual flea and worm treatment. 'Non-prescription' flea/tick and worm treatments which are not subject to the new controls may have to be prescribed to pets not seen by our vets within the last 12 months.

For other drugs, a repeat prescription or remote prescribing (by telephone consultation) may no longer be possible, (especially for controlled drugs and antibiotics) even if we were previously able to do so. Please be understanding with our staff if they ask you to bring your pet in to be checked over by one of our vets.

These changes haven't otherwise affected our existing prescribing policy for long term medications. The frequency of checkups will vary depending on the advice of your vet. If a re-examination is necessary before we can prescribe the medication, we will let you know.

Examinations will now always be required for prescribing the following medications:

- Antibiotic tablets.
- Antibiotic ear drops and topical skin antibiotics
- Antibiotics for urine infections.

The updated rules also include all our equine patients. Common examples of medicines that will now always need an examination would include:

- Any antibiotics.
- Ventipulmin (controlled drug category).
- Meadows mud fever cream.

When requesting repeat prescriptions of controlled drugs please be prepared to provide an update on your pet's condition for recording on your animals clinical notes.

The guidance is an important step towards ensuring responsible medicine use and reducing the veterinary impact on the wider issues of global antibiotic resistance and decline of insect populations. Further details can be found on the RCVS website at www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/under-care-new-guidance/ or speak to the vet next time you are in. We advise that you contact the practice by telephone or email to request your pet's flea, tick and worm treatment to ensure that we are able to prescribe the required medication.