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Common Medications That Are Safe for Your Cat

Product	Feline Dosage	Common Use
Benadryl (diphenhydramine)	Give 1 mg per 1 pound of body weight	Allergies/itching
Cranberry juice concentrate	Encourage to drink often and as much as possible	Urinary tract infections
Dramamine (dimenhydrinate)	Give 12.5 mg one half hour prior to travel	Motion sickness
Glucosamine/chondroitin	Give 500 mg per day	Arthritis joint pain
Hydrocortisone	Apply a small amount up to two times daily	Itchy, raw or irritated skin
Hydrogen peroxide 3%	Give 10 ml by mouth every 15 minutes	Induce vomiting after accidental ingestion of a poison
Imodium (loperamide)	Give 1 teaspoon for every 20 pounds every 4-6 hours or until symptoms being to resolve	Diarrhea
Mineral oil	Up to 2 teaspoons daily	Constipation
Maalox (aluminum with magnesium hydroxide)	Up to 2 teaspoons every 8 hours	Antacid and anti-gas
Pepcid AC (famotidine)	Give ¼ tablet once or twice daily. Talk to your vet first	Ulcers, acid reflux or belly ache

Other common medications

Antibiotic ointments: Helpful in the treatment of small wounds, bites or minor infections. Always thoroughly clean the wound with soap and water first.

Antibacterial soap: Can be use to clean any wound or injury.

Nasal sprays: Saline nasal spray and pediatric nasal sprays (Little Noses) can be given in kittens and cats to alleviate dryness and nasal congestion associated with a cold.

Common Medications to Avoid in Your Cat

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Tylenol (acetaminophen)

This seemingly safe drug used in humans for headaches and fever, can actually be deadly to your cat. Cats have an unusual metabolism in their liver. When Tylenol is eaten, it is taken by the bloodstream to the liver. In the cat, the liver metabolizes or breaks down Tylenol into separate components which are actually toxic to the cat. In other species these components are further broken down by the liver into non toxic substances. But the cat lacks the necessary enzymes to continue this breakdown process. These end products of Tylenol breakdown are so toxic to the cat that death is the typical outcome.

Aspirin and Pepto-Bismol

Similar to Tylenol, both aspirin and Pepto Bismol are highly toxic when used in treating cats. Both medicines contain salicylates which can cause respiratory failure and hyperglycemia.

Sudafed (pseudoephedrine)

Pseudoephedrine is a decongestant found in many cold remedies, but acts like a stimulant in cats who can experience elevated heart rates and seizures.

Many Prescription Medications

Pets often snatch pill vials from counters and nightstands or gobble up meds accidentally dropped on the floor. Medications of particular concern are:

- Prescription NSAIDS (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug)
- Antidepressants
- Pain relievers like Vicodin, Tylenol with Codeine and Percocet
- Ritalin (methylphenidate)
- Fluorouracil
- Isoniazid
- Anti-diabetics like Glucophage (metformin) and glyburide
- Vitamin D derivatives
- Baclofen

