

Human Medicines That Work for Pets

Some human medicines are also effective for dogs and cats, though the dosages are usually lower due to the smaller size of the animal. Here are the medications that vets recommend most often. It's always best to give your vet a quick call before giving your pet any type of human medicine, just to verify that it's safe for your pet and will work for his condition. Also, tell the vet if your pet is currently taking any other medications, in case there could be interactions.

Medication	Use	For Dogs	For Cats
A & D Ointment	Antibacterial ointment for scrapes and wounds	Apply thin coating 3–4 times a day for 7–10 days	Apply thin coating 3–4 times a day for 7–10 days
Anbesol	Topical anesthetic for mouth pain	Dab on liquid with cotton swab once or twice a day for up to 2 days	Do not use more than one time
Aveeno Oatmeal Medicated Bath	For soothing itchy skin	Use as bath rinse as often as 3 times a week	Use as bath rinse as often as 3 times a week
Benadryl	Antihistamine	1 mg per lb every 6–8 hours	1 mg per lb every 6–8 hours
Betadine Skin Cleanser	Antiseptic liquid soap for cleansing on or around wounds	Use full strength to wash affected area	Use full strength to wash affected area
Betadine Solution	Antiseptic solution for flushing or soaking injured areas	Dilute with distilled water to the color of weak tea, then apply	Dilute with distilled water to the color of weak tea, then apply
Bufferin	Pain reliever	10–25 mg per 2.2 lb two or three times a day	DO NOT USE
Burow's solution	Topical antiseptic	Moisten cotton ball and apply to wound	Moisten cotton ball and apply to wound
Caladryl	Soothing topical lotion for pain and itching	Paint on sore area	Paint on sore area
Cortaid	Anti-itch cream	Apply once or twice daily as needed	Apply once or twice daily as needed
Desitin	Soothing ointment	Rub on affected area	Rub on affected area
Dramamine	For car sickness, nausea	2–4 mg per lb 3 times a day	¼ of 50-mg tablet (12.5 mg) once a day
Dulcolax	For constipation	5- to 20-mg tablet once a day or ½ to 2 pediatric suppositories (10 mg) once a day	5-mg tablet once a day or ½ pediatric suppository once a day
Epsom salts	Soothing soak for irritated, itchy skin	1 cup per gal of water, then soak affected area	1 cup per 2 gal of water, then soak affected area
Hypo Tears	Eye lubricant	Apply 4–12 times a day	Apply 4–12 times a day
Iodine	Topical antiseptic	Paint on wound	Paint on wound
Ipecac Syrup	Emetic to promote vomiting	1 tsp per 20 lb, up to 3 tsp	DO NOT USE
Kaopectate	For diarrhea	½–1 tsp per 5 lb, to a maximum of 2 Tbsp every 8 hours	½–1 tsp per 5 lb every 4–8 hours for 1 day only
Lanacane	Topical anesthetic	Apply to sore area with gauze pad	DO NOT USE
Massengill Disposable Douche	Odor neutralizer for skunk spray, body odor	Mix 2 oz per gal of water, use as a soak for 15 min, then bathe as usual	Mix 2 oz per gal of water, use as soak for 15 min, then bathe as usual
Metamucil (unflavored)	For constipation	1 tsp per 10–25 lb, mixed in food	½ tsp (small cat) to 1 tsp (large cat), mixed in food
Mylanta Liquid	For digestive upset, gas	Dogs weighing 15 lb or less get 3 Tbsp, 16–50 lb get 4 Tbsp, and 51 lb or more get 6 Tbsp	DO NOT USE