

CLIENT INFO SHEET: PETS ON LONG-TERM MEDICATION

Under UK law, only fully qualified veterinary surgeons are allowed to prescribe Prescription Only Medicines (POM-V) for your pet. The responsible use of veterinary medicines is crucial to animal welfare and to the maintenance of public health. Therefore there are many rules and regulations governed by EU and UK legislation which veterinary surgeons prescribing and dispensing medications are required by law to fulfil.

Under the regulations, veterinary surgeons may only prescribe Prescription Only Medicines (POM-V) following a clinical assessment of the animal, and this animal must be deemed to be under their care. This means that a pet needs to have been seen recently enough for the veterinary surgeon to have personal knowledge of the current health status and condition of the pet.

Our practice policy is, therefore, that pets on long-term medication receive a clinical assessment with a veterinary surgeon **at least every 4 months**. This will usually require a full examination at the practice. On occasion, and only where we deem it appropriate, a telephone consultation may be offered as an alternative. Please ask a member of the team for current costs. The Medication Review will always involve a thorough review of your pet's health, and in some cases further tests may be recommended. Our main objective is to ensure the wellbeing of your pet by evaluating the progression of disease, monitoring for side-effects, and detecting other disorders early enough to treat them. These assessments must be complied with, if you wish us to provide regular repeat medications for your pet.

It is an offence for a veterinary surgeon to supply more than the minimum amount of veterinary medicinal product required for treatment. Therefore our practice policy is to prescribe up to **two months** of treatment at a time. Repeat dispenses may be requested by telephone or online via our website, clearly stating which of our three sites you wish to collect from. To ensure patient safety, our veterinary surgeons oversee all repeat medication requests – therefore please give us at least **48 hours'** notice – just go online to www.broadlanevets.co.uk or alternatively you can telephone us.

Alternatively, a written prescription for **two months'** worth of medication may be requested. Preparing and providing a written prescription is time-consuming and requires meticulous attention to detail. It is also a professional act which confers

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legal responsibility on the prescribing vet. As such, we charge a small fee for providing each written prescription; ask a member of staff for the current cost, and please telephone at least **48 hours** in advance, stating which of our three sites you wish to collect from.

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