

**Wood River Animal Hospital**  
**28 Kingstown Road**  
**PO Box 620**  
**Wyoming, RI 02898**  
**www.woodriveranimalhospitalinc.com**  
**P: 401-539-1199 F: 401-539-0681**

We've noticed you've recently purchased your pet's medication from an online pharmacy. Please keep these points in mind in deciding where to purchase medications for your pets, it's important to balance any cost savings with the unique services and expertise you receive from your veterinarian.

- Medications are usually dosed on a weight basis (milligrams per pound or milligrams per kilogram). It is important that your veterinarian determines your pet's weight and calculates the correct dosage to achieve the desired effect from any medication. Your pet's current health condition may also alter the final dosage.
- There are several medications they should not be administered until your veterinarian determines that it is safe for your pet to be given them. For example, heartworm preventatives should not be administered to dogs with active heartworm infestations because it can lead to a fatal reaction. Therefore, it is important to consult with your pet's veterinarian to determine what heartworm prevention program and timetable best suits your individual pet.
- Dog and cat owners should keep in mind that their cats are not small dogs, nor are their dogs large cats. Many medications that are administered to dogs are not safe for cats (they can be fatal), and the reverse is also true.
- Many medications need to be reconstituted or diluted specifically for your pet. Some medications must be kept in a controlled environment or refrigerated. The medications that are shipped to and by your veterinarian are properly packaged and delivered under controlled temperatures so that you don't have to worry about receiving "spoiled" medicines that were exposed to temperature extremes, sunlight, moisture, etc.
- Each animal is a different and unique individual. Some breeds and species have special needs or sensitivities that your veterinarian is aware of and he or she can select the product best suited to your pet.
- Some medications require follow-up monitoring for adverse reactions or dosage adjustments. If an adverse reaction does occur, it is important to have established a veterinary-client-patient relationship to ensure that your pet receives appropriate medical attention on an emergency basis. An adjustment to the dosage may need to be made after lab tests and/or examinations are performed.
- Some medications, especially those shipped from other countries, may not follow the same FDA qualifications as those in the U.S. These sites often sell unapproved drugs, drugs that contain the wrong active ingredient, drugs that may contain too much or too little of the active ingredient, or drugs that contain dangerous ingredients.

#### **RELEASE OF LIABILITY**

*Due to the occurrence of altered or incorrect medications being received by consumers through various online pharmacies, I recognize that there are certain inherent risks associated with the above described activity and I assume full responsibility for injury, side effects and loss to my animal. I agree to indemnify and defend Wood River Animal Hospital Inc. against all claims, causes of actions, damages, judgments, costs and expenses, and other litigation costs, which may in any way arise from my use of online pharmacies. Any legal or equitable claim that may arise from participation in the above shall be resolved under Rhode Island Law.*

**Consumer Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Medication prescribed on our website or at our office comes with the comfort of knowing that you and your pet are individuals and have distinct needs that can best be served by your veterinarian. Please call us at 401-539-1199 or check out our online store at [www.woodriveranimalhospitalinc.com](http://www.woodriveranimalhospitalinc.com).**

<http://www.fda.gov/forconsumers/consumerupdates/ucm048396.htm>  
Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association

