

# A Pet Parent's Guide to Giving Transdermal Medications to Cats

## What are transdermal medications?

Transdermal medications are given through and absorbed by the skin. Typically, vets will offer transdermal meds in the following forms:

- Ointment
- Gel
- Cream
- Liquid solution
- Patch

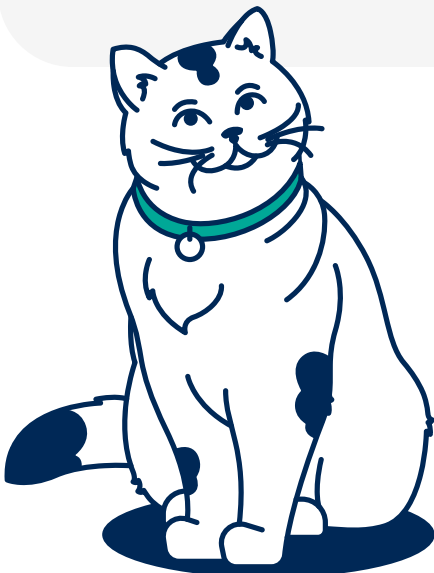
Only certain drugs can be given in transdermal form.

## How do transdermal medications work?

Transdermal medications work by diffusing the medication from the gel or patch directly into the bloodstream through the skin's outermost layer. This differs from topical medications, which deliver medication directly to a localized area of the skin and do not go into a cat's bloodstream.

## Why would my cat need a transdermal medication?

Transdermal meds may be given to anxious cats as a less stressful way to administer medication, rather than tablets, liquids, or injectables. Cats prone to stomach upset may also be good candidates for transdermal medications, as they do not interfere with the digestive tract.



# Transdermal Medications

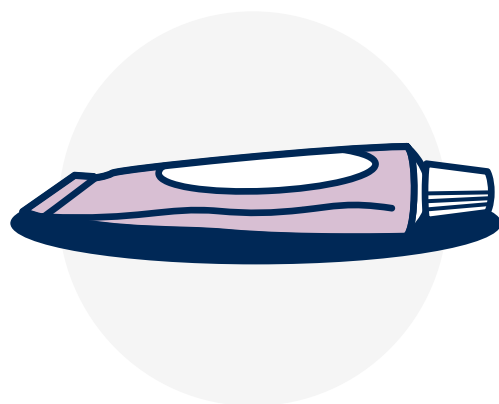
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## How do I use transdermal medications on my cat?

If your vet prescribes a transdermal medication for your cat, you may be wondering how to safely administer it at home.

You can use the steps below to help guide you through the process:

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### 1 Wash your hands and put on gloves

Before applying your cat's medication, thoroughly wash your hands and put on protective gloves. Wearing gloves will prevent your cat's medication from seeping into your skin during application and causing you any side effects.

### 2 Prepare your cat

Bring your cat into your lap and sit down. Be patient and make sure your cat is calm. Use a moistened paper towel and gently clean the application site.

### 3 Apply your cat's medication

Remove the packing of the medication. Your veterinarian will have already measured and labeled the dosage and explained where to apply the medication. Directly apply the medication to your cat's skin. If it's a gel or cream, gently rub the medication in.

### 4 Take off your gloves and rewash your hands

Once you've applied the medication, carefully peel your gloves off and thoroughly wash your hands. It's important that no medication gets onto your skin.

### 5 Wipe away any residual debris

Over the next hour or so, allow the medication to diffuse into your cat's system. After this period is over, take another moistened paper towel and gently wipe away any leftover residue on your cat's skin.

If your cat is being given a patch, follow your vet's instructions on when to safely remove it.