



UNDER-CARE GUIDANCE FOR PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES.

As of 1st September 2023 the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS, the regulatory body for the veterinary profession in the UK) introduced new guidance on prescribing prescription-only medicines.

The new guidance requires that a physical examination of the pet has to be performed every time any antibiotics, antifungals, antivirals and antiparasitics are prescribed. This includes topical preparations such as ear and eye drops, and all prescription flea / worm / tick products.

Guidance is an important step towards ensuring responsible antimicrobial use and reducing the veterinary impact on the wider issues of global antibiotic resistance and decline of insect populations.

What this means in practice is that your pet will need to come in for an in-person consultation every time:

- **We need to prescribe medication for an ear infection (as most contain antibiotics).**
- **We need to prescribe antibiotics for any skin problem, even if it's a chronic problem.**
- **We / you decide to change from one flea / worm / tick product to another.**
- **We suspect a urinary tract infection.**
- **We suspect a gastrointestinal infection.**

For long-term prescription medication that is not antimicrobial / antiparasitic, our usual policy of requiring an examination every 6 months (or every 3 months in some less stable or more serious cases) continues to apply.

The consultations are charged at our usual fee of £30 - £42, depending on whether it's an initial consultation or one for a recurring problem.

If you have any questions or concerns about the new guidance, the RCVS can be contacted on 0207 2020789 or advice@rcvs.org.uk.

The full guidance can be found on: [RCVS Advice & Guidance](#)

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding - The Bridge Vets