

Risk of Purchasing On-line



According to the FDA Consumer Health Information:

“Some of the Internet sites that sell pet drugs represent legitimate, reputable pharmacies, says Martine Hartogensis, D.V.M., deputy director of the Office of Surveillance and Compliance in FDA’s Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM). But others are fronts for unscrupulous businesses operating against the law.

FDA has found companies that sell unapproved pet drugs and counterfeit pet products, make fraudulent claims, dispense prescription drugs without requiring a prescription, and sell expired drugs.

Pet owners who purchase drugs from these companies may think they are saving money, says Hartogensis, but in reality, they may be short-changing their pet’s health and putting its life at risk.”

The complete article may be viewed at:

<http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm048164.htm>

Or ask us for a copy.

Warning Signs of Sub-standard Internet Pharmacies

- If it does not ask for the name, address and telephone number of your pet’s veterinarian.
- If it suggests you complete a health survey in place of your veterinarian’s examination.
- If it offers to have a veterinarian on-line who has never examined your pet provide a prescription.
- If it does not have a physical address and telephone number.
- If it requires a waiver of rights before drugs are sent.
- If it says it is advisable to obtain a prescription medication from a foreign country via the Internet.
- If it is not a VIPPS-accredited pharmacy.



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INTERNET PHARMACIES

Buyer Beware!



**What you need to
know**
The potential risks and
limitations of buying
drugs on-line

*Dedicated to providing
compassionate & comprehensive
care for your pet*

Internet Pharmacies

The Internet is easy and convenient. It offers on-line pharmacies where you can obtain medications for your pet. If you are considering purchasing medications on-line it is important for you to understand:

- Your veterinarian knows your pet and your family personally, and is familiar with your pet's specific needs and the environment where you live.
- Each animal is different and unique. Dogs and cats are different—some medications that are administered to dogs are not safe (even fatal) for cats. Your veterinarian is aware of these differences, allowing him to select the product best suited to your pet.



- There are many medications that should not be given to your pet until your veterinarian determines they are safe to be administered. For example, heartworm medication should not be provided to dogs with active heartworm infections because it can lead to a fatal reaction.

Be Aware



- Medications shipped to your veterinarian are properly packaged, delivered and stored under controlled conditions to avoid temperature extremes, sunlight and moisture. This ensures that the safety and efficacy of medications and vaccines are not compromised.
- Many manufacturers will guarantee or support their product in the event that it fails to protect your pet. They will only do this if the product is purchased from a veterinarian that maintains a veterinary client patient relationship.
- Some pharmacies will try to sell pirated or unapproved “knock-off” drugs (imitations of FDA-approved drugs). When ordering a whole bottle, be sure that original packaging is intact and look for a NADA (New Animal Drug Approval) number on the bottle.

Be aware that at least two prominent Internet pharmacies selling veterinary medications have been investigated and consented to disciplinary action.

Medication prescribed and purchased at your veterinarian's office comes with the comfort of knowing that you and your pet have distinct needs that can best be served within your local community by your veterinarian.

