

Long Term Medication Use

Your veterinarian has placed your pet on a long term medication:

Long term medications are used when pets are diagnosed with life-long medical conditions, such as:

- Arthritis
- Seizures
- Anxiety
- Hypothyroidism
- Hyperthyroidism
- Heart Disease
- Liver Disease
- Kidney Disease

Just as in humans, long term medications require careful monitoring. Since the body (internal organs) need to process these medications, it is important to keep a close watch on the body's organ function. We do this through lab work and physical exams. In most cases, long term medications can affect the liver and kidneys.

It is important to complete lab work **prior** to starting long term medications. Some medications are not advised to use if there is already some changes in organ function. This lab work also provides a "baseline" for your pet. This helps the veterinarian compare future lab results to quickly identify any changes in your pet's health.

Continue monitoring of lab work is every 6-12 months (sometimes more frequently). This monitoring helps determine:

- Effectiveness of medication
- Adverse changes to your pets internal organs
- Necessary change of medication dose

Your veterinarian's goal is to provide the best care for your pet's condition with the least harmful stress on your pet's body function. Be sure to address any concerns that you may have with your veterinarian.

