

Ralston Vet's Good Pharmacy Policy

We at Ralston Vet strive to provide the best medicine possible for your pet. Upon reviewing our current policies and further research, we have revised our pharmacy protocols regarding your pet's medications. We have decided to make the necessary changes to ensure we are supplying your pet's medication to the highest of standards. Listed below are the FDA guidelines on pill cutting. Thank you for your understanding throughout this change.

FDA Best Practices for Tablet Splitting for the Owner, Patient and Veterinarian

- If a tablet is FDA-approved to be split it will be scored with a mark as to where to split the tablet. Information will be printed in the "HOW SUPPLIED" section of the professional label insert stating this tablet has been approved for splitting.
- If a tablet is not scored and does not include such information in the label the medication should be discussed with your Veterinarian whether to split this type of tablet or not. The FDA has not evaluated these meds to ensure that the two halves of a split tablet are the same in weight or drug content or work the same way in the body as the whole tablet.
- If the Veterinarian asks that your pet's tablets be split, only split the table prior to giving the medication. Use the other half next and leave all other tablets as a whole until the next dose is needed and then start the process over again. This is important because split tablets may be affected by factors such as heat, humidity and/or moisture content. For example, a split tablet stored in a damp environment such as in a bathroom medicine cabinet could be affected.
- Your Veterinarian may be able to recommend the best method by which to split a tablet. In many cases, a tablet splitter may be appropriate. However, some tablets may not be suitable for this method because of their unique shape and size—even if they appear to be scored. It is important to discuss this issue with your Veterinarian to determine what is best for you and your pet.
- Most sustained, controlled, or timed release medications are not meant for splitting. In those rare instances where splitting is recommended for this type of medication, such information will be printed in the "HOW SUPPLIED" section of the professional label insert and in the patient package insert and will be scored.
- When you switch from one brand of medicine to another, you and your Veterinarian should confirm whether the newly prescribed tablet is splittable, even if the original tablet could be split. The same medications can be manufactured differently, thus may not have been developed to be split.