

Red flags to watch out for

The FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine and US Dept of Health & Human Services has cautioned consumers to be suspicious of online pharmacies if the:

- Site does not require veterinary prescriptions for prescription drug orders. *This is illegal, and any business that openly engages in illegal behavior is highly likely to sell you unsafe or ineffective products.*
- Site has no licensed pharmacist available to answer questions.
- Site does not list physical address, phone number, or other contact information.
- Site is not based in the U.S.
- Site is not licensed by the State Board of Pharmacy where the business is based.

Home Delivery

If you are looking for the convenience of home delivery please ask us about our online pharmacy, VetSource (which can be accessed through our website). By purchasing your medications through our online store, you still receive all the benefits associated with purchasing directly from us, and at a great price. The auto refill feature is a very popular option for people who have difficulty remembering to get more medication. And check out the “remind me dosing” for preventatives.



**FOUR PAWS
ANIMAL HOSPITAL
& WELLNESS CENTER**

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Flea & tick medication



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What you need
to know.....

Benefits of buying from your veterinarian

If you are considering purchasing your pet's flea & tick medication from an outside source, there are a few things to consider.

There are many services that are being provided in addition to the medication itself when you purchase your products from us:

PRICE: Keep in mind that we often have promotions and rebates to pass on from the manufacturers that are not available online, in catalogs, or at the major retail stores. **This means we are often cheaper than 3rd party sources.** We invite you to compare our prices to other sources; we are confident that you will find them to be very competitive.



SAFETY: We purchase our medications only from reputable sources. Some internet companies are selling products that are not labeled for sale in this country. Not only is this illegal, it has resulted in errors on the part of the consumers. For example, the weight will be in kilograms instead of pounds. Do you know how many kilograms your pet weighs?

Improper use of flea & tick products, especially in cats, can lead to fatal reactions. **We have seen cats die** because the wrong product was accidentally used by their owner. We can help you avoid these mistakes.

Some flea & tick medications are not safe to use with other medications that your pet may be on. We are familiar with your pet's medical history and can help you choose a safe product.

Brand names matter: there are many "generic" options available. Even if they have the same active ingredients, the "carrier," which helps distribute the product all over your pet's body, may not be the same and therefore not be as effective as the name brand product.

Generic options also may use chemicals that are not as safe for your pet. A major local retailer is selling a generic product that can only be used in dogs over 6 months of age, although this information is buried in the fine print on the back of the box.

GUARANTEES: All of the major drug manufacturers (who make Parastar Plus, Frontline Plus, etc.) **will only uphold their guarantees if the products were pur-**

chased through approved channels (your veterinarian). Online pharmacies and retail stores such as Costco obtain their products from non-approved channels, and therefore you would not receive any support from the manufacturer in situations of apparent product failure or medical complications. The manufacturers feel very strongly that the involvement of the veterinarian is crucial to the safe and effective use of their products.



EDUCATION: Drug company representatives visit us regularly to share with us their latest data and research, and are a valuable source of up-to-the-minute information. In addition, our staff participates in regular meetings to make sure everyone is well versed on the safe and effective use of the products that we carry. We are a reliable source to answer any questions you may have about the products you have purchased.

In our experience, perceived product failure is actually due to incorrect use by the client. We can help you avoid those common mistakes so that you are not wasting your money.