

# Macaws Need Medicines, Too!

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### Acknowledgments

The contents of this book were reviewed by Carolyn Guptill-Yoran, D.V.M., Ph.D., DACVIM; Gerald Wehr, M.D.; Alejandro Cuza, Ph.D.; Adrienne Fisch, B.S. (Consumer and Community Studies); and Marisol Uribe, B.A. (Sociology). Book design was by Allison Carey, B.A. (Fine Arts). Photographs provided by Seth Bossingham and Kevin Doerr. Translation by Mauricio de Gortari, D.V.M., M.Sc., Ph.D. We would also like to thank Peter Froehlich, director of Purdue University Press, and his team, Katherine Purple, Bryan Shaffer, Alexandra Hoff, Kelley Kimm, and Becki Corbin.

### Summary

Medicines can help people and their animals feel better.

The project described is supported by a Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) from the Office of Research Infrastructure Programs (ORIP), a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of ORIP or NIH.

NIH . . . *Turning Discovery Into Health*

ISBN 978-1-62671-069-6

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Purdue University Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA), NIH

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# What are medicines?

Another name for medicines is legal drugs. Some medicines are just for people. Some medicines are just for animals. Many medicines can be used for people and animals. Medicines can be helpful. Some medicines are only taken when people or animals are sick. These medicines can help you feel better by destroying the germs that cause sickness. Other medicines help people or animals feel better, such as when they are allergic to something.

Some people and animals need to take medicines for their entire lives. These helpful medicines replace things that the body should make, but doesn't. For example, people and animals with diabetes take insulin because their body has stopped making insulin or makes less insulin than they need to stay healthy.



All medicines can be harmful if they are not used correctly. Sometimes medicines have side effects, like making you throw up or upsetting your stomach. Safety lids on medicines make them hard to open, to keep children and pets from accidentally taking medicine they shouldn't take, or the wrong amount.





# How do you know if something is medicine?

Medicine and candy can sometimes look the same.

Can you tell which ones are medicine?







It is easy to get medicine and candy mixed up. Always ask an adult before swallowing anything that you're not sure of.

# Types of medicines

Legal drugs can be grouped into two types:  
Over-the-Counter Medicines and Prescription Medicines.

Over-the-Counter: You can buy these medicines at a store without a prescription. You do not need written permission (a prescription) from a doctor to get these medicines. Cold medicines and headache medicines are some over-the-counter medicines for people. Flea and tick medicines are some over-the-counter medicines for animals.





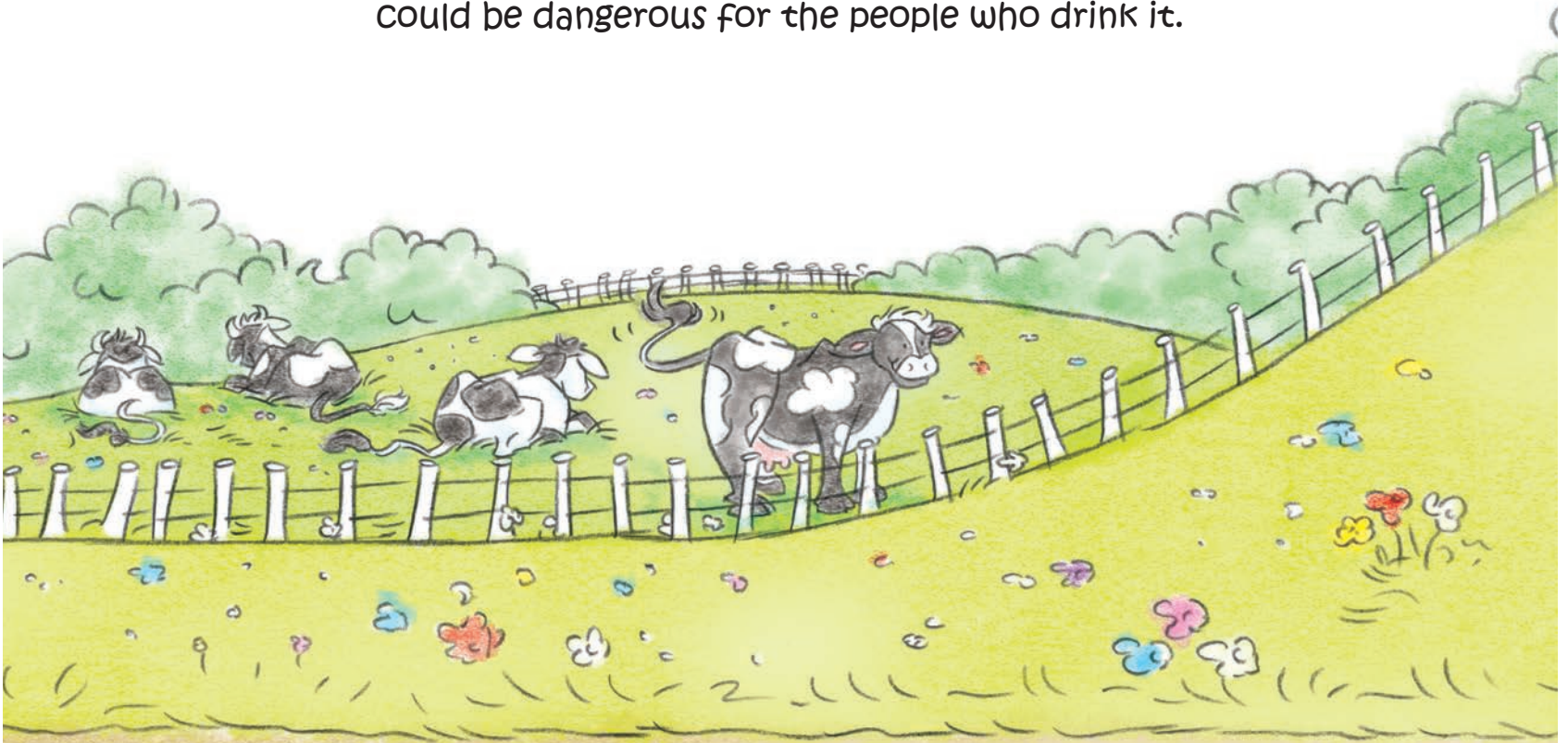


Prescription: You need written permission (a prescription) from a doctor to buy these medicines. Physicians (doctors who take care of humans) write prescriptions for people. Veterinarians (animal doctors) write prescriptions for animals. Prescriptions are needed for most medicines that control pain. Prescription medicines come from a pharmacy. A pharmacy is a place where pharmacists (people who know about medicines) put your medicine or your animal's medicine into a container with directions about how to use it safely. Some pharmacists prepare medicine just for animals.

You may have heard someone call other things “drugs”. These are not bought over-the-counter from a store or from a pharmacy with a prescription.

There are illegal drugs. They can be against the law to have or to use. Heroin is illegal for people to use as medicine in the United States. Marijuana is legal to use as medicine for people in some states and illegal in other states.

Some medicines are legal to use for some animals, but they are not legal to use in food animals like dairy cows. The drugs would get into their milk and this could be dangerous for the people who drink it.









# How to take medicines

Medicines must be used exactly as the physician or veterinarian tells you, or they won't work. To use a medicine properly, you must know three things:

1. How much medicine you should take or give to your animal.
2. When you need to take the medicine or give the medicine to your animal
3. How to get the medicine into your body or your animal's body.

If you don't remember how to use medicine properly, you can call your physician or veterinarian or you can read the label on the medicine.





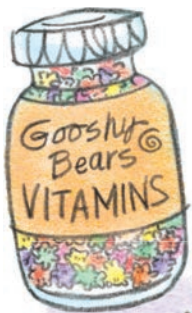
# How much medicine?

The dose of medicine is how much of the medicine you should take or you should give to your animal. It is important to use the correct amount, not more, not less.



# When do you need to take the medicine or give the medicine to your animal?

It is also very important to take the medicine at the correct time of day, in order for it to work properly. Here are some examples:

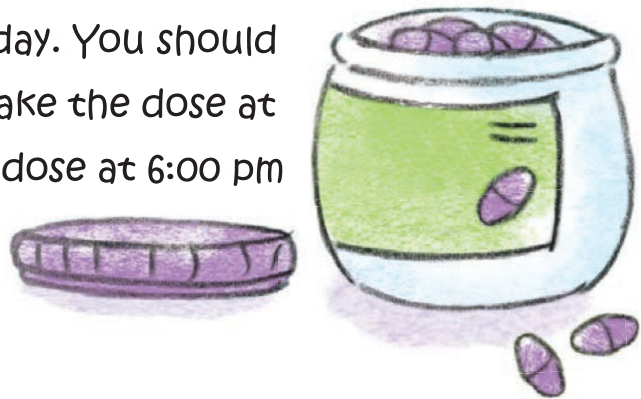


## One Time Every Day

Some medicines are used one time every day. You should try to take the dose at the same time every day. If you take the dose at 6:00 am the first day, you should take the dose every day at 6:00 am.

## Two Times Every Day

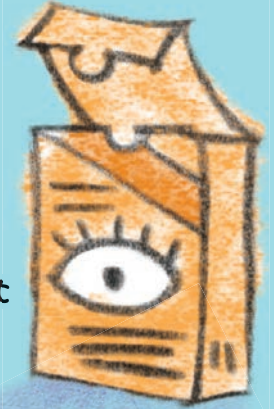
Some medicines are used two times every day. You should take the dose twelve hours apart. If you take the dose at 6:00 am the first time, you should take the dose at 6:00 pm the second time, every day.





### Three Times Every Day

Some medicines are used three times daily. You should take the dose eight hours apart. If you take the dose at 6:00 am the first time, you should take the dose at 2:00 pm the second time, and at 10:00 pm the third time, every day.



### Four Times Every Day

Some medicines are used four times every day. You should take the dose six hours apart. If you take the dose at 6:00 am the first time, you should take the dose at 12:00 pm (noon) the second time, at 6:00 pm the third time, and at 12:00 am (midnight) the fourth time, every day.



### Six Times Every Day

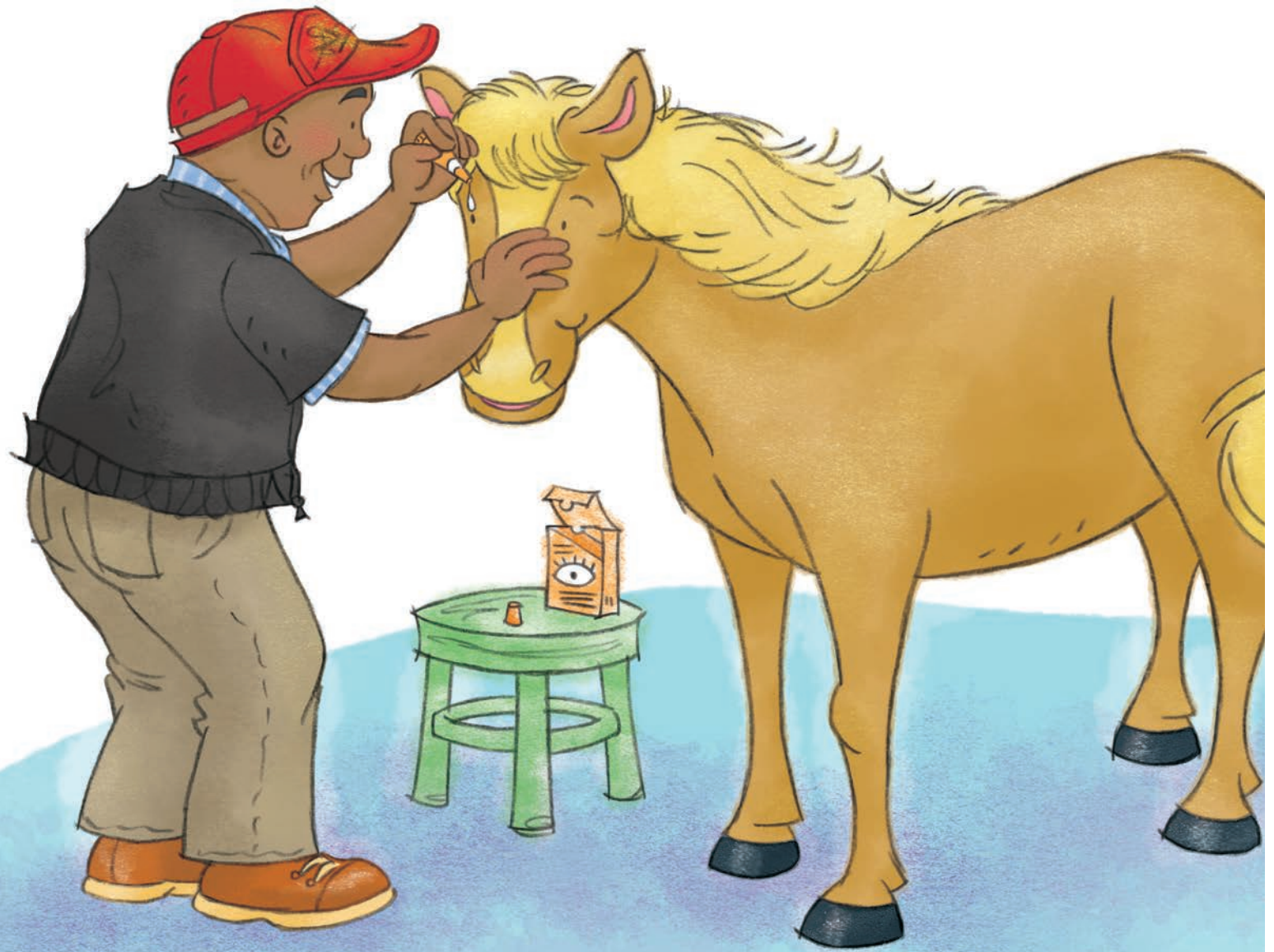
Some medicines are used six times every day. You should take the dose four hours apart. If you take the dose at 6:00 am the first time, you should take the dose at 10:00 am the second time, at 2:00 pm the third time, at 6:00 pm the fourth time, at 10:00 pm the fifth time, and at 2:00 am the sixth time, every day.



Did you know that animals can be given medicines in many different ways? This veterinarian is giving a cow her medicine by mouth, using a balling gun. The balling gun helps the cow swallow her pill.







This horse is getting medicine for his eye, in eye drops.



Sometimes medicines have to be injected, using a needle and syringe.



This cat is getting medicine on her skin.



This dog is getting medicine that goes right into his blood.



# What is on a label?

All medicines have labels with directions that tell you how to use the medicine safely and correctly.





Here is what the label will tell you:

1. Whose medicine is it? The name of the person or animal written on the label is the only one who should take the medicine. It will say something like, "This medicine is for Pooch the dog".
2. Who prescribed the medicine? The name of the physician or veterinarian is on the label, so you can contact them if there are problems. For example: "Dr. Ko prescribed this medicine".
3. What is the name of the medicine? "Carprofen" is the name of one medicine.
4. How much medicine should you take or give to your animal, how often, and how should you give it? It might say, "Pooch should be given one tablet by mouth two times every day until all the symptoms have cleared up".
5. How long is the medicine good for? Just like food, medicine doesn't stay fresh forever. The label will have an expiration date, such as "This medicine should not be used after July 30, 2016".

You can ask a pharmacist how to properly dispose of any medicine that didn't need to be taken.



# Did you know ... ?

Veterinarian Dr. Mohamed Seleem leads a team of researchers at Purdue University's College of Veterinary Medicine. Making new medicines takes a very long time and is very expensive. It can take many years to find out if a new medicine is safe and works. These scientists are studying new ways that we can use safe medicines that we already have to fight germs. This research could help us get better medicines to sick people and animals faster.



Dr. Seleem and his  
research team  
below in  
their  
lab.



# Word Bank

balling gun

dispose

dose

illegal

medicine

over-the-counter

physician

prescription

syringe

veterinarian

