

## Pilocarpine for Dry Eye

Your pet has been diagnosed with Keratoconjunctivitis Sicca, also commonly known as “Dry Eye.” The ophthalmologist has prescribed Pilocarpine ophthalmic drops. Pilocarpine given orally will stimulate the tear glands to make more tears.

If you are filling this prescription at a pharmacy, do not be alarmed if the pharmacist is not familiar with using pilocarpine eye drops as an oral medication. The prescription is correct. We use pilocarpine in its eye drop form as an oral medication. This is commonly done in veterinary medicine, but it is rarely prescribed for oral use in people.

The ideal dose of pilocarpine is different for each patient; follow the instructions below to determine your pet’s ideal dose.

Start your pet on Pilocarpine \_\_\_% on his food twice daily per the chart below. In the first week, give one drop on the food twice daily. In the second week, increase to 2 drops in the AM and 1 drop in the PM. Continue down the chart increasing by one drop each week.

If your dog develops symptoms of pilocarpine toxicity, such as excessive salivation, vomiting, or diarrhea, stop the medication until the side effects have resolved; this usually takes 48 hours. Then, restart pilocarpine at the previously tolerated, lower dose. This is your pet’s ideal dose. Continue at this dose until your pet’s next exam. Please call with concerns or questions.

Week	No. of Drops	
	AM	PM
1	1	1
2	2	1
3	2	2
4	3	2
5	3	3
6	4	3
7	4	4
8	5	4