

## **Online Pet Pharmacies**

**With the rising cost of living putting a strain on households across Canada, more and more people are looking for ways to cut their monthly costs where possible. As a way to pivot during this challenging time we are seeing online pharmacies growing in popularity, with some services expanding their scope to include prescription medications for pets too.**

Honest and open communication with your veterinarian about cost concerns will prevent misunderstandings and help you do what's best for your pet, but did you know that where a client requests a prescription, rather than to purchase a drug directly from the veterinarian, the veterinarian is obligated to comply with this request? Opening this conversation with your veterinary team may lead to support that you weren't aware of being available, including a willingness to offer payment plans or other financial options.

While it's understandable to feel tentative about purchasing medications online, there are some things you can do to keep you and your pets safe, including looking for pharmacies that have an OCP (Ontario College of Pharmacists) Certificate of Accreditation. It is a violation of Canada's Drugs Act and Food and Drug Regulations to advertise or sell drugs that are not approved for use in Canada, so if you have concerns about a purchase, you can choose to call the manufacturer of the drugs and ask them if they made the product you have purchased or not. They can confirm this by checking and verifying the lot number on the product packaging.

We have listed the online veterinary pharmacies that we are aware of below – please keep in mind that we are not associated with any of these outside organizations.

### **Certified Online Veterinary Pharmacies**

**The Pet Pharmacist** <https://thepetpharmacist.ca/>

OCP Certificate of Accreditation # 304640

Prescription required; prescription medications will only be dispensed on the instruction of a licensed veterinarian

**Canada Chemists** <https://canadachemists.ca/petPharmacy.aspx>

OCP Certificate of Accreditation # 307884

Prescription required; prescription medications will only be dispensed on the instruction of a licensed veterinarian



**Pets Drug Mart** - A division of Canada Chemists <https://www.petsdrugmart.ca/>

OCP Certificate of Accreditation # 307884

Prescription required; prescription medications will only be dispensed on the instruction of a licensed veterinarian

**From the websites "About Us" page:** *"We have a vast product list so if there is something you are looking for that is not in our online catalog please contact us and let us know! On average you can save around 25-50% off the price you normally pay at the Vet's!"*

