

## Internet Pharmacy Policy

The FDA estimates that upwards of 40% of all medications dispensed through on-line pharmacies are counterfeit, impure, out-of-date or near out-of-date, or have been stored improperly. This is a staggering number! All of these issues have a bearing on product safety and effectiveness. Imagine the number of illnesses and deaths that might be associated with these issues.

Because of the concern with on-line pharmacies dispensing medications without a proper prescription and concerns over drug safety, purity and effectiveness, many veterinarians have chosen to avoid writing prescriptions out or authorizing them to be filled by an on-line source. Out of concern for your pet and the knowledge that we cannot control the safety nor effectiveness of what might be sent to you from on-line pharmacies, the veterinarians of Aldine Animal Hospital have chosen not to authorize prescriptions via on-line pharmacies.

Several Internet Pharmacies have been sued or significantly fined for violation of state prescription laws.

It is important to point out that the decision to decline prescriptions to internet pharmacies is not an economic one, but one of safety. Our first concern is the health of your pet and that means ensuring the accuracy and safety of what we are prescribing.

Another important point is that the manufacturers of medications like Trifexis, Heartgard, Interceptor, Sentinel, Comfortis and Revolution do not sell directly to on-line drug stores. In fact, these companies *do not warranty* product purchased from an internet pharmacy because of concerns regarding counterfeit drug, importation, improper labeling and improper storage. Warrantees only apply when the medications are purchased through your veterinarian.

Because of these concerns, the doctors of Aldine Animal Hospital have a policy of not writing or authorizing prescriptions for on-line pharmacies. We feel strongly that this is the safest policy for you and your pet. If you have concerns regarding cost of medications, please discuss this with your doctor or one of our staff.