

Why Can't Antibiotics Fix Everything?

Family Matters

One of the most common questions we hear is:

"Can't we just try some antibiotics?"

It's an understandable question. Antibiotics have transformed both human and veterinary medicine, saving countless lives.

But they're not a cure for every illness.

At Amity, we believe prescribing antibiotics only when they're truly needed is one of the most important things we can do for your pet—not just today, but for the future. Our purpose is to **Empower You Through Education**, helping you understand what we're recommending and why.

What Do Antibiotics Actually Do?

Antibiotics are designed to kill or slow the growth of **bacteria**.

They **do not** treat viruses.

They also don't treat allergies, inflammation, arthritis, ligament injuries, most stomach upsets or many other common conditions.

Giving antibiotics when bacteria aren't the problem won't help your pet recover any faster.

Finding the Real Cause

Many illnesses produce similar symptoms.

A dog with a cough may have a viral infection, heart disease, kennel cough or pneumonia.

A cat with a sore eye may have a virus, a scratch, an ulcer or an allergy.

Although the symptoms may look similar, the treatments are completely different.

Our job is to identify **the cause**, not simply treat the symptoms.

Why Not Just Give Them Anyway?

Using antibiotics "just in case" may seem harmless, but it isn't.

Every unnecessary course increases the risk of **antibiotic resistance**. This happens when bacteria adapt and become harder to kill, making future infections more difficult to treat—for both animals and people.

Antibiotic resistance is recognised worldwide as one of the biggest challenges facing modern medicine.

By using antibiotics responsibly today, we're helping to preserve their effectiveness for the future.

Sometimes Tests Help Us Choose

For more complicated infections, we may recommend taking a sample for laboratory testing.

This identifies exactly which bacteria are present and, just as importantly, **which antibiotics are most likely to work**.

Rather than guessing, we can choose the most appropriate treatment from the start.

What If My Pet Doesn't Need Antibiotics?

That doesn't mean we're doing nothing.

Sometimes the best treatment is pain relief.

Sometimes it's anti-inflammatory medication.

Sometimes it's rest, surgery, parasite treatment or simply giving your pet's immune system time to do what it does naturally.

Not prescribing antibiotics isn't withholding treatment.

It's choosing the **right** treatment.

Protecting Pets Today and Tomorrow

At Amity, we'll always explain why we are—or aren't—recommending antibiotics.

If we believe they will genuinely help your pet, we'll prescribe them.

If we don't, we'll explain what we think is happening and discuss the most appropriate treatment instead.

Because good medicine isn't about prescribing more.

It's about prescribing wisely.

Every decision we make has one goal:

Helping your pet recover while protecting the effectiveness of these valuable medicines for years to come.

Because they're not just your pet.

They're family.

Family Matters.

If you need more information, book an appointment with an Amity vet. We're here to Empower You Through Education and help you become your pet's greatest advocate.