

## Prescriptions

Pet owners have always been able to ask their vet for a written prescription for medicines for their pets. With increasing competition in the market, such as internet pharmacies, the competition commission legislated that from October 2005 vets had to provide these prescriptions free of charge.

Although some pet owners have chosen this route for obtaining their medicines, the vast majority still have their medicines direct from their vet at the point of diagnosis. Those that use alternative sources of medicines need a written prescription for POM (prescription only medicines). These involve vets in devoting professional time to reviewing histories, making decisions on best treatment, adjusting doses where needed and then finally writing, copying and storing prescriptions.

From 31<sup>st</sup> October 2008 the requirement to offer this service free of charge came to an end and vets were once again able to charge a reasonable fee for the process of preparing, writing and issuing a script.

From January 2012 AMV will charge £7.00 for this service. Please continue to ask for a prescription if you would like one and we will be happy to continue providing these for you.

This charge is not meant to stifle competition but is, and always has been, a reflection of the time and cost to the practice of providing this service.