



# TIPS FOR FACING ANTIBIOTIC PRESCRIBING PRESSURE

*You and your client both want their pet's illness to be short and mild. They may see antibiotics as a way to reach that goal, even for viral infections. Here are three key strategies to remember when a client wants you to prescribe an antibiotic when it is not needed.*

## **Identify what the client is concerned about.**

- Your client brought their pet to you with the hope of making it feel better. What specific clinical signs are they concerned about?
- Ask non-judgmental clarifying questions to understand why a client thinks an antibiotic will help.
- Determine what the client thinks will happen if they don't get an antibiotic to take home today. Do they have concerns about being able to return if things get worse?

## **Provide alternative treatment options.**

- Affirm your client's pet doesn't need antibiotics and tell them why.
- Discuss strategies that address their concerns about pet comfort.
- Provide a symptom relief kit so clients don't leave empty-handed.
- Provide a specific follow-up date if clinical signs have not improved or worsen.

## **Discuss potential risks of antibiotic use.**

- Clients are often unaware that antibiotics are not benign medications.
- While side effects are often mild, it may be difficult to predict which pets will have severe side effects.
- Overuse of antibiotics can lead to resistance and resistant bacteria can pass between pets and the people they live with.