Tips on Getting Started with Inhaled Therapy

"It was a daily struggle to get her to take her pills. Now she actually looks forward to her medications!" - Dottie and Meadow

Make it a pawsitive experience by following the **CONDITION**, **LOVE**, **REWARD** approach:

| CONDITION: | Slowly and calmly familiarize them to the chamber before administering a dose |
| LOVE: | Provide lots of hugs, pets, and cuddles before, during, and after treatment |
| REWARD: | Give treats before and after |

1. **Start by creating a positive response to the chamber**

   **A. Take it slow in the beginning**
   - Give your pet time to get acclimated to the device before trying to administer medication.
   - Lay the device on the ground and allow them to approach on their own terms.

   **TIP**
   - Create curiosity in the device by wiping a little tuna fish or peanut butter inside the mask.

   **B. Progress to holding the chamber**
   - As they become comfortable, transition to holding the chamber in your hands. Hold the chamber out at a distance and keep it still. Give your pet a chance to sniff and smell.
   - Create a link between positive outcomes and the chamber by providing lots of treats, hugs, and play.
   - Associate this positive response to the chamber by halting play for a minute and hiding the device behind your back. Bring it back out and renew the treats, hugs, and play.
   - As they become more comfortable with the device, gently apply the mask for a short time without delivering any medication. Continue to praise and treat.
2. Administer Medication with the Chamber

A. Getting your animal to come to you
- Keep the device in your lap while you call them to you
- Entice them to come to you by leaving out a trail of treats that leads to your lap
- Wipe a little tuna fish or peanut butter inside the mask to encourage placement on the face
- Swaddling in a towel or blanket can help calm nervous cats

B. Using the inhaler
- Ensure you shake the inhaler well before using.
- New inhalers need to be primed before first use. If the inhaler has not been used for some time, it may need to be primed again. Check the instructions for your specific inhaler on how to prime the device.
- Insert the inhaler into the backpiece of the chamber. This adapter is designed to accept all commonly prescribed inhaler shapes. Make sure to remove any caps on the inhaler before inserting.

C. Administering the inhaler medication
- It is important to get a secure seal when applying the mask.
- For cats and dogs, the mask should cover the nose and mouth and not the eyes. The equine mask simply fits over one nostril on horses.
- The Flow-Vu* inhalation indicator will move on inhalation to confirm a mask seal.
- If you haven’t done so yet, activate the inhaler.
- Watch the movement of the Flow-Vu* indicator to count 7-10 breaths in cats and dogs and 2-3 breaths in horses. It is important to count breaths because the animal may hold its’ breath when the mask is first applied.
- If another dose is required, wait 30 seconds to give the inhaler time to reset, then shake the inhaler and repeat the steps above.
- Use a damp cloth to remove medication residue on fur or hair.

Questions?
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