

# OPIOID MEDICATIONS AND YOUR PET

## KNOW THE FACTS

### An Opioid Crisis in the United States and in Iowa

- The U.S. is experiencing a public health emergency. In 2016, over 64,000 Americans died from a drug overdose, with a majority of these deaths occurring as a result of an opioid.
- In Iowa, opioid overdose deaths and treatment admissions for individuals with an opioid use disorder have tripled in the last decade.
- Individuals that misuse opioids are constantly looking for new ways to acquire opioids that may impact you.



Medication for pets is a source for persons with opioid use disorder

- People dependent on opioids may take the medication prescribed for a pet.
- Although we don't want to think anyone we care about misuses opioids, sometimes it happens.
- Be mindful of medications prescribed for your pet.
- Talk with your veterinarian about the medication being prescribed for your pet.

### When your pet is prescribed an opioid:

#### Prevent diversion and misuse

- Safely store opioid medication in a locked container or cabinet.
- Avoid leaving medication in plain view or where it can be easily accessed.
- Keep count of the medication to know whether any goes missing.



#### Do you have leftover medication?

- Promptly and properly dispose of any unused and expired opioid medications.
- Find a local take-back or pharmacy program to dispose of unused and expired opioids.
- Do not throw opioid medications in the trash or flush them down the drain.

If you are concerned about a family member or friend who uses opioid medication, help is available.

For more information, please go to [YourLifelowa.org](http://YourLifelowa.org).

