Recent government-driven moves are likely to make veterinary medicines more widely available, particularly through pharmacies.

Whilst any increase in consumer choice is welcome, it is unclear how this will benefit pet owners and perhaps least of all improve animal welfare generally.

Since drug sales contribute to the running costs of all veterinary practices, for practices to continue to provide current levels of service this will inevitably lead to an increase in general fees.

Here at The Grove we have decided to reduce our medicine costs to keep them competitive with the large retail pharmacies. Bear in mind that these same pharmacies do not provide telephone advice 24 hours a day or an emergency service at nights and weekends.

The running costs of The Grove will therefore need to be borne by our general fees, which have seen a modest increase. The effect of this is that the costs of your overall veterinary care remains exactly the same as reduced drug costs will off-set the increase.

Prescriptions

We will be happy to supply prescriptions at the time of consultation for any medicines we prescribe. It is not clear how many pharmacies will dispense veterinary medicines but in theory the prescription can be supplied by any pharmacy or veterinary practice. Bear in-mind though that any third party is likely to charge a private dispensing fee to dispense the medicine, a full range of veterinary medicines may not be stocked and you may have to wait for it to be made up.

We hope we will continue to be a “one stop” provider of veterinary care and if you wish to compare the prices of our prescription medicines – please don’t hesitate to ask the veterinary surgeon or a receptionist.