



## Animal Weight and Medication Dosing

Not only does monitoring weight help veterinarians ensure overall animal health, but many medication dosages are determined and prescribed based on animal weight.

Accurate weight is essential to proper patient care for animals of all sizes. If an animal isn't given enough medication, the treatment will be ineffective. However, giving them too much can have detrimental side effects, sometimes including death.

Errors in weight data can happen when the animal is weighed, when the weight is recorded, and when it is communicated during patient care. Other common causes for weight and dosing errors include estimating weight, incorrect scale use or inaccurate scales. We recommend having established procedures for capturing and documenting patient weight to help veterinary clinics and animal hospitals avoid dosing errors based on weight.

### Animal Weighing Procedures

Use this list to create your own procedures to ensure accurate patient weight is collected, no matter what size animal you are weighing.

- Pharmacy reviews of weight-based dosing recommendations
- Properly functioning weighing and dosing equipment
- Regular maintenance and cleaning of all equipment, including scales
- Routine scale checks with certified weights to ensure accuracy
- Standardize units of measure used in patient care



Cast Iron Calibration Weight

VS-10 Small Animal Scale



**HEADQUARTERS**

230 West Coleman Street  
Rice Lake, Wisconsin 54868 - USA  
Tel: (715) 234 9171 | Fax: (715) 234 6967  
[www.ricelake.com](http://www.ricelake.com)

## Locking Units of Measure

If an operator accidentally changes units of measure on a scale from kilograms to pounds, medication could be given in dangerously high amounts. Standardizing the units of measure used at your facility and choosing equipment that allows you to lock the units of measure can help you prevent potentially fatal errors. Additionally, using a scale with movement compensation technology allows you to accurately capture weight even with the most active animals.

## Ensuring Accurate Weight Data

Medication dosing errors can be easily avoided by using reliable weighing equipment with features designed to reduce human error. Rice Lake Weighing Systems provides scales for use in veterinary clinics with movement compensation technology, locking units of measure and weight recall functions to simplify small and companion animal weighing. Learn more about Rice Lake's animal scales and find the best option for your facility.



RoughDeck EQ Equine  
Scale with 482 Indicator