

Happy Dog Vet Visits

Veterinary visits don't have to be traumatic and stressful events for you or your dog. With some training and reconditioning, your dog can learn to visit the vet without fear and will enjoy the venture. Since fear is the primary cause of misbehavior related to veterinary visits, simple steps to reduce and even eliminate the fear will make for much happier trips.

The Car

Too many dogs only get to go for a car ride when they go to the veterinary clinic. Take your dog out and about to fun places often. This makes car rides enjoyable for them and they will associate the car with fun! That way, when you put them in your car to go to your appointment, they will be happy about getting to go for a car ride. Try to provide consistent exercise in the form of walks and play. This can reduce anxiety by decreasing the dog's focus on leaving the house.

The Vet Office

Familiarity will help your dog feel more comfortable at the veterinary clinic. Mimicking elements of the exam at home in a loving and comforting way will make these actions less startling when performed by the veterinarian. Look in her ears, touch his feet, look under the tail. Having a dog that is comfortable being touched over its entire body will make exams more enjoyable for all involved.



Social Visits at the Clinic

Take your dog to the veterinarian between check-ups for an occasional social visit. Call ahead to schedule a "Happy Visit", and ask the staff to pet and give treats to your dog during the appointment. You can also sit in the waiting area and feed your dog treats for a few minutes to acclimate him to the sights, sounds, and smells of the clinic. Doing these things will teach them that the clinic is a good place to go to!

Reward Good Behavior

It's best to ignore your dog upon arriving at the clinic until he or she is relaxed. Then you can reward the relaxation with a treat or a scratch behind the ear. Take your dog's favorite treats when you go to a veterinary appointment and reward for calm behavior. Allow him to nibble on the treats during uncomfortable procedures such as vaccinations. This lets them know they are doing the right thing by being calm in a stressful situation.