



[pawPRINTS]

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TIPS FOR AN EASIER VISIT

- **Remain calm**
- **Encourage with praise and treats**
- **Provide comfort during transport**
- **Bring a favorite toy**
- **Pheromones**

FEAR FREE VISITS

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP YOUR DOG OR CAT HAVE A 'FEAR-FREE' VET VISIT?

Many of our pets are nervous when going to the vet. Some even seem to know when we're getting ready for that upcoming appointment and hide when we go to get them! Here are some tips for creating a happier visit:

For the dogs, focus on what they love! If your dog is motivated by food, skip the meal before and bring his favorite treats. When you arrive at the veterinary office, start encouraging him with treats. Provide rewards for walking in the door, being calm and quiet in the waiting room, for getting up on the scale, and for nice interactions with vet staff. If your dog is scared of veterinary staff members, you might have the staff member offer the treats. This can work for food-motivated cats as well... Place treats in the carrier prior to the visit, and offer treats to come out of the carrier when it's time for the exam.

If your dog or cat has been vomiting or otherwise not feeling up to treats, try non-food rewards instead. For both dogs and cats, bring along their favorite toy. The act of playing can help release nervous energy



and provide distraction. Another good physical distraction is brushing. Many dogs and cats enjoying being brushed and this can be very calming. Cats may enjoy a catnip-scented toy or blanket also. Other calming scents are pheromones. These are scents produced by other animals and there are a number of products now available in pet stores and veterinary offices (including Feliway and Adaptil).

Make the traveling environment as comfortable as possible. For cats and small dogs, place soft blankets in carriers. Larger blankets can be placed on the car seat for big dogs. Continue this in the exam room. Blankets placed on the exam table or on the floor are not only more comfortable, but provide stability for animals who are weak or ill.

Most importantly, remain calm yourself. Many veterinary staff members can tell you that they have often observed how nerves flow from pet parent to pet. Animals are very sensitive to human emotions and if they sense you are worried, they may react likewise. Remembering this, as well as trying the tips mentioned, can go a long way to improving the veterinary experience for both you and your pet!



IMPORTANCE OF DENTAL X-RAYS



Proper dental care is one of the most important things that you can do for your pets. Animals who receive quality dental care throughout their lifetime have been shown to live longer, healthier lives.

Did you know that about 70% of a cat or dog's tooth is under the gum line? Dental x-rays allow us to look at this part of the tooth, allowing us to accurately and successfully treat your pet's dental disease. We know from looking at the available research that we will find important information that we would have missed otherwise on about a third of the dental x-rays we take! In addition, these images help us to determine the best way to keep your pet's mouth healthy. Dental radiographs help diagnose many conditions that may otherwise go undiagnosed. For example, dental radiographs can help the doctor discover fractured or broken roots, cysts, tooth resorption, early tumors, or un-erupted teeth. Even when a tooth looks completely healthy, there can be problems brewing under the gum line, and in the bone.

IS ANESTHESIA NECESSARY FOR DENTAL CLEANINGS?

In order to appropriately diagnose and treat your pet's dental disease, anesthesia is necessary. It provides three important functions: immobilization in order to clean below the gum line and perform dental procedures (radiographs, extractions, etc.) as needed, pain control, and the ability to place a tube into the windpipe so bacterial products do not enter the respiratory system.

We take every precaution to ensure safe anesthesia. We use the safest of anesthetic agents, and pets are given pre-operative bloodwork depending on their age and condition to make sure they are safe to go under sedation. You can be assured that your dog or cat will be closely monitored for the duration of the procedure, as well as their recovery.



80% of dogs and 72% of cats have signs of gum disease by age 3.

Gum disease can cause bad breath, discolored teeth and more serious problems, including tooth loss and infection.

Brushing your pet's teeth regularly helps prevent gum disease. Here's how you do it:

Assemble the right tools. Choose a pet toothbrush or soft-bristled finger brush and toothpaste made just for pets in flavors like chicken or salmon. Don't use human toothpaste as it can upset your pet's stomach.

Start slowly. Place some paste on the brush and let your pet smell and taste it. Rub some paste on your pet's teeth and gums. Praise and reward your pet with a treat so they think of having their teeth brushed as a pleasant experience. Do this daily for a week.

Begin brushing. When it's time to brush, gently pull your pet's lips back and brush the outer surfaces of the teeth at a 45-degree angle for about 30 seconds. Gradually add more time and brush all tooth and gum surfaces. Remember to praise and reward your pet.

Follow up. Give your pet appropriate chew toys or dental treats between brushings and visit the vet at least once a year for a professional cleaning and dental health evaluation.

TOP DOG NAMES

2015

Top 10 Female Dog Names

1. Bella	2. Daisy
3. Bailey	4. Zoey
5. Coco	6. Roxy
7. Lucy	8. Abby
9. Lola	10. Luna

Top 10 Male Dog Names

1. Max	2. Rocky
3. Buddy	4. Charlie
5. Jack	6. Toby
7. Cooper	8. Bear
9. Duke	10. Tucker

CLINIC NOTES

- ◆ Thank you to everyone who donated pet food for our holiday pet food drive in December. We were able to collect 298 lbs of dog food and 100 lbs of cat food for the Chuck Waggin' Pet Food Pantry.
- ◆ It is our policy to require 24 hour notice on all medication refills. Please be aware of when your pet is nearing the end of their supply, so that we can be alerted in time to prevent any lapse in medications. If you need a refill from a secondary source (i.e. compounding pharmacy, PetMeds, Walgreens), please contact them. They will fax us a request which the doctor will review and fax back at the earliest convenience (within 24 hours). Additionally, please make sure you pay attention to prescription labels for reminders of lab work or rechecks required before the next refill. Your understanding and cooperation with this matter is appreciated.
- ◆ For the safety and consideration of other clients and pets, please make sure your dog is on a leash at all times. If you forgot one, please ask the receptionist and we would be happy to give you one to use for your visit.
- ◆ If you love your care and service at All Creatures, please refer a friend. When they provide your name during their first visit, your account will be credited \$25! As a welcome, they will also receive \$25 off their first visit!
- ◆ Please notify a receptionist if there are any changes to your phone number, address or email. This will ensure you are able to be reached for callbacks from our doctors, lab work results and vaccine reminders.



February Is
National Pet Dental
Health Month

Receive **\$50** off a dental in the
month of February!

Call today to schedule!
Spaces are filling up quickly!



**The perfect time to get your pet microchipped
is when they are in for a procedure or dental.**

Receive \$20 off a microchip *(original price \$56.00)*

when it's booked with your next procedure!
