

Blue Ravine News

YOUR PET'S HEALTH IS OUR CONCERN

Volume 16 Issue 2

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Help Your Pet to Have A Favorable Experience at the Veterinary Office



Some pets love going to the vets, others don't. It is our goal to help improve your pet's experience at our hospital. This goal can be obtained through some simple changes before and during your appointment. For some pets though, when the fear is extreme, it may be too intense for your dog's well being and impractical for you to improve without combining a drug or natural supplement with a behavior program. Talk to your vet if you think this applies to your pet.

GETTING TO THE VET HOSPITAL:

If your pet has anxiety related to car travel, please do some home work to counter condition your pet to tolerate or even enjoy car rides! Even better is to start with your puppy before there is even a problem. Request a handout that describes the techniques for counterconditioning. A little work now will pay in dividends down the road!

IN THE LOBBY:

If your pet is easily agitated by other pets, you can always request to be placed into a

waiting room immediately. Or even phone from the parking lot to have a room ready at check-in.

It is the rare pet that's mental state improves with petting. If your pet's mood is not better within 10 - 15 seconds of petting, this strategy is not working. Discontinue petting, it may actually be rewarding a fearful state of mind. Food and toys to the rescue!

Use a calm, assertive tone with your pet. You need to use a tone that implies you are in charge and this is a fun place to be. A jolly/playful tone can be helpful for most pets. A baby voice does not imply that you are in charge and can worsen fear or anxiety, or create it if it doesn't exist already.

If possible, skip your pet's meal before your appointment (this may not be possible for some pets with health issues - consult with your vet if you have any questions). Use their hunger to your advantage so that they are more attentive to treats being given!

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Help Your Pet to Have A Favorable Experience at the Veterinary Office

(Continued from page 1)

Control your pet's movements by placing them in an attentive sit and dispensing treats for calm/attentive behavior only.

Feel free to stop by the hospital at any time. Sit in the reception, have your dog sit, give treats for calm/attentive behavior and build positive associations with our building.

Have our staff administer treats for calm/attentive behavior to build positive associations with our staff.

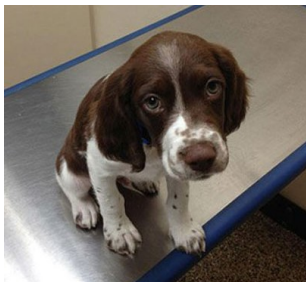
GETTING INTO THE EXAM ROOM:

- Control your pet's movements as you move into the exam room.
- Walk in a manner that provides clear direction to the dog.
- Don't stroll, but walk fast enough so the dog knows you are leading them somewhere.
- If your pet pulls in an alternate direction, speed up.
- Offer positive reinforcement with treats.
- It is okay to loosen the leash slightly if your pet is attentively watching you and heeling.
- Retractable leashes give very little control, and lead to confusion and insecurity in your pet.

If you need to stop, have your pet sit next to you.

IN THE EXAM ROOM:

- Continue to control your pet's movement. They need your guidance!
 - Don't allow your pet to cower behind your legs. Try to draw them out with a game or food.
 - Have your pet perform tricks while you wait and administer treats liberally.
 - Bring favorite toys to continue to make positive associations.
- Continue to use a calm, assertive, jolly tone with your pet.
- Bring extra treats to be administered to your pet by the vet and nurses.
- Don't inadvertently reinforce fearful states of mind with your tone, petting, or rewards.
- Train your pet at home to tolerate and enjoy having feet, ears, teeth, nails, tail manipulated.



CATS ARE ANOTHER ISSUE!

A cat needs to be in a carrier for a veterinary visit and owners cannot expect a cat to be comfortable in a carrier without previous contact with it!

Carriers may be hard plastic or soft fabric and you may need to experiment to see which your cat is comfortable with. Once you have one, familiarize the cat with it in advance of your anticipated vet visit.



interior of the carrier might bump your kitty over its hesitation to enter

- Keep it in a main room of the house in sight of your cat and make it comfortable for her with blankets
- Entice your kitty to enter the carrier with treats or feed him/her in the carrier, at first with the door open
- For a stronger enticement, using catnip or pheromone sprays in the

interior of the carrier might bump your kitty over its hesitation to enter

Some carriers have a top opening which may prove helpful when you need to place your cat into or remove your cat from the carrier at the veterinary office.

In preparation for your visit, find a room to contain your cat the night before so you don't have to hunt for her the day of your visit.

Put a towel or pee pad in the bottom of the carrier in case your kitty has sickness or pees out of anxiety in the car. Some people also wrap the kitty, or at least the feet, with a towel to make it easier to place the cat in the carrier. Or, use your hands to hold at least the back feet together so the cat cannot use the feet as a restraint. You may place a treat with the cat but if the animal is stressed they will not take food.

Some soft vocal reassurance may be necessary. Also restrain the carrier so it won't bounce or move during the trip. Placing a towel or small blanket over the carrier may help to calm the occupant as well.

Riding in a vehicle is not as common for cats as it is with dogs, most of whom enjoy riding, so you may need to reassure your kitty throughout the trip.

In the veterinarian's waiting room, always keep your cat contained for the protection of all the pets in the area.

These tips can help make your pet's visit easier and more enjoyable.

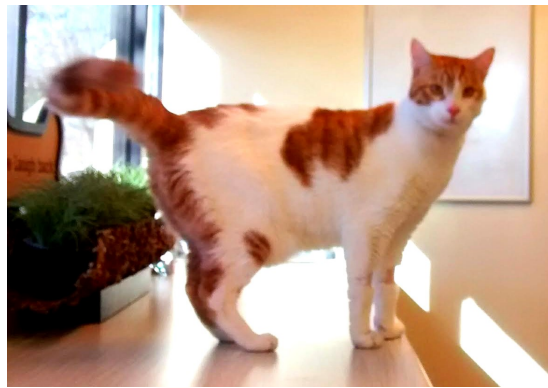
Our Adoptable Pets: Wilbur

"Wilbur" is a Turkish Van neutered male, 3 years old.



Wilbur is a special boy who loves to play with anything, especially if it's tied to a string on a stick. He has different meows when he is trying to have a conversation with you. He is not much of a lap cat, but does love rubbing

up against your legs. Wilbur gets along with dogs but does not get along with other cats.



He is on a special diet that he will have to be on the rest of his life: Royal CaninGI Fiber Response, the dry formula, is a prescription food from your vet. Wilbur's adoption fee has been paid by a Good Samaritan. Anyone interested in Wilbur is welcome to come by and visit with him or take him home for a trial run.



For more information on Wilbur contact Blue Ravine Animal Hospital, 916-984-0990.

Summertime Pest Prevention

Now more than ever is the time to be proactive about pest prevention. Flea and tick season is at its peak in summertime, so you'll want to ensure your dog stays safe.

It's important to keep in mind that your pet can also be affected by fleas and ticks indoors. So, even if your pet barely heads outside, he's still at high risk from all of the pests that make their way inside. And because of all the health risks that pests can bring to your pet, it's highly recommended to stay on top of preventative care year-round, especially for families that live in humid climates.

What can you do? Keep your pets pest free, keep your home pest free, keep your yard pest free.

To maintain your home and yard, vacuum your home often (carpets, floors, furniture, etc.) and empty the vacuum canister immediately if fleas are present.

Wash bed linens, pet bedding and throw rugs frequently.

Add natural predators: Ladybugs and other insects are natural predators of fleas and can be found at garden stores. Add them to your backyard and you'll likely notice a reduction in flea populations within two days.

Fleas breed quickly and can be difficult to get under control once

they find their way into your home. However, even one or two fleas can lead to uncomfortable itching if your dog has flea allergy dermatitis (FAD), which is sensitivity (allergy) to flea saliva (and is very common in dogs).

Aside from FAD, fleas can also transmit tapeworms, cause cat scratch disease and may even cause severe cases of anemia, especially in young animals. So taking steps to prevent both flea and tick bites is about more than just removing the "ick" factor; it's a health issue.

The average life span of a flea is just under a week, but in some environments colonies of fleas can survive for twice that long. Killing larva and pre-adult stage fleas kills the repetitive growth cycle. This is important because adult fleas can lay up to fifty eggs per day. Fleas can also jump up to eight feet, which is 150 times their own height. They may jump from the dog to you, hitch a ride, and then jump to furniture, rugs, grass or another animal.

To treat your dog, consult your veterinarian for the best flea and tick treatment for your specific pet.





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BLUE RAVINE OFFICE HOURS

Office hours: Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 8:00 pm; Saturday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sunday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.
For emergencies outside regular office hours, please call MarQueen Pet Emergency & Specialty, 916 757-6600
or Sacramento Veterinary Referral Center, 916 362-3111.

www.blueravineanimalhospital.com

Purchase 6 Months of Heartgard, NexGard, or Frontline Gold

Get a free dog toy or cat bed!
(limit: 1 toy per pet, while supplies last)

BLUE RAVINE ANIMAL HOSPITAL
1770 Prairie City Road, Folsom, CA 95630
916-984-0990



Expiration Date: June 30, 2018