



K9INTUITION

PREPARING YOUR PET FOR A VISIT TO THE VETERINARY SURGERY

When a pet arrives at the vets already stressed and anxious, it makes the whole experience inside the vets so much more stressful for that pet and consequently the owner too. Vets want pets and owners to have as stress free and enjoyable experiences as possible, every time. They need your help to try and achieve this.

PREPARATION.

Hungry - as long as there are no medical reasons why not (always check with your vet) make sure that you limit the amount of food your pet has prior to coming to a vet visit. This is useful for a couple of reasons: 1. it can help your pet not to feel travel sick and 2. it will make the pet more likely to enjoy the treats they will receive during the visit.

Treats - Not only but especially, if your pet is on a strict diet/has food intolerances etc. you should bring up to 100 of your pet's favourite treats with you - but they should be in really small bits. You can even bring your cat's wet food if you feel that's what they like best! Ideally dry treats should be no bigger than the size of half a pea. Hopefully your vet has a variety of yummy treats to tempt pets with no specific dietary requirements.

Toys & grooming kit - some pets find toys and/or grooming far more rewarding than food, so we encourage owners to bring along a favourite toy and/or brush. The vet team can use these or encourage owners to use these during the visit to help keep their pet relaxed and less stressed.

Preparing to travel - travelling to the vet surgery can be stressful for a pet. So making sure that your pet is happy in the crate/carrier or with a seatbelt harness on, or wherever they are situated within the vehicle is very important. Some tips for this would be:

- condition your dog to wearing a harness by using high value treats
- if using a carrier/crate - keep it out all the time in a commonly used area of the home and do the following: place your pet's favourite toys and/or bedding near the carrier/crate, put an article of your clothing that smells strongly of you inside the crate/carrier, use a Pet Remedy diffuser close to where the carrier/crate is. For dogs, use a food stuffed toy with something mega tasty inside the crate/carrier. Feed the pet near the crate/carrier. If you need further help with this contact **K9INTUITION**.

Travelling - When you are travelling with your pet, ensure that you have prepared the crate/carrier/area well about 15 - 30 mins prior to travelling. Have a familiar toy, towel/blanket etc sprayed with Pet Remedy and/or appropriate pheromone spray i.e. Adaptil for dogs and Feliway for cats. When using these sprays, please leave at least 15 minutes after spraying before putting the pet into the vehicle or going into the vehicle yourself.



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Toilet - giving your pet the chance to pee/poo before you leave home and again before you go into the actual vet surgery will help with stress levels for the pet too.

Time - allow yourself plenty of time for travelling to and being at the vet visit. If you are stressed because of time constraints your pet will pick up on this and will become more stressed themselves!

Medication and supplements - if your pet has been prescribed any anti-anxiety or anti-nausea supplements or medication by your vet, please ensure that these are given to the pet as prescribed. If your pet has not been prescribed anything for anxiety or nausea and you feel it may be appropriate for your pet, your vet will be happy to discuss this with you.



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