



A SUCCESSFUL TRIP TO THE VET

Trips to the vet are often unpleasant and frequently expensive so you want to make the most of your appointment. Try following these guidelines.

1. Make sure you know what's "normal" for your dog. Pay attention to his eating habits and what his poop looks like. Has his coat condition changed? What about his energy level and sleeping patterns?
2. Be prepared to explain your concerns and maybe even write them down or keep a chart. Then let your vet take the lead in asking questions so he can focus on the current problem.
3. Going online for information is fine, but remember that not all information on the internet is accurate.
4. Try getting your dog used to going to the vet when it isn't a crisis. Ask if you can stop by just to say hello or to get a treat and get weighed.
5. Take your dog for a short walk around the clinic before you go inside. He can potty and relieve a little bit of tension.
6. Take notes during your visit and ask for clarification on any points you don't understand. Maybe even have someone else with you so you can both process information.
7. Be patient. Medicine isn't black and white and it might take some time to reach a diagnosis. Further testing might be required.
8. Don't be afraid to ask for advice in putting a problem into perspective. It's OK to ask if something is serious or if you should be worried about something the vet has told you. You're paying for your vet's expertise and knowledge and you should feel comfortable asking questions.
9. Ask if a referral to a specialist is appropriate. A good vet won't be offended if you say you'd like to get a second opinion.
10. Don't hesitate to talk about treatment costs and options. Your vet's primary focus is your dog, but your financial and logistical concerns are part of the picture, as well. Your vet should recommend a course of action, but the ultimate decision is yours.

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