



IN PARTNERSHIP DOG TRAINING

Helping you and your dog be partners in life's adventures

6 TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL VET VISITS

Vet visits do not need to be stressful for your pet OR for you. Building positive associations with the office itself and the inevitable poking and prodding is possible and can help reduce anxiety for your dog around these times.



Visit just for fun before the real deal.

Take a field trip to the vet office just to say hi to the staff and eat treats. Make the location itself fun and exciting!



Bring lots of amazing treats with you!

...Treats that they get at no other time. These include any human food that is wet, sticky greasy or smelly such as cooked meats, salami, cheese, fish... or novel wet dog food.



Build comfort with handling, basic care and restraint at home.

Practice a full body exam, touching, holding and looking inside of ears, eyes, mouth, paws, belly, tail. Break it down into pieces (ie. just the paws!) and start with what they are totally comfortable with. Touch then deliver super duper treats (as above) right after. Gradually increase invasiveness as they start to expect treats when the "exam" begins. For free training that outline these exercises in more detail visit academyfordogtrainers.com/husbandry-project/



Advocate for your anxious dog.

Your vet should let your dog wait in the car and enter through the back door if coming in through the lobby and seeing other animals may cause stress or trigger reactivity. It is also totally appropriate to medicate dogs who exhibit aggressive behavior or panic. Your vet will likely be happy to help as your pet's wellbeing is their goal too!



Condition your dog to be happy wearing a muzzle before they may need it.

The vet can be a place where dogs exhibit aggressive behavior. This does not mean there is anything behaviorally wrong with your dog - we all are more aggressive when we are scared or in pain. But this can mean that the vet needs to put a muzzle on your dog before a procedure. Gradually introducing the muzzle and pairing it with high value treats can help your dog be totally comfortable wearing it. Visit thepetrescuersource.com/muzzle-training for a training plan.



Work on a really solid stay in a standing position.

Practice with a wide variety of distractions including through touch and holding all over their body. This can help exams be quicker and easier.

Want more coaching on the above, behavior consults or classes? Visit www.inpartnershipdogtraining.com

