

BE MINDFUL THAT DOGS ARE INCREDIBLY PERCEPTIVE CREATURES, AND THEY CAN PICK UP ON SUBTLE CUES FROM THEIR ENVIRONMENT. HERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT MIGHT HAPPEN AT THE VET THAT YOUR DOG CAN SENSE:

UNFAMILIAR SMELLS: The smell of other animals, cleaning products, and medications can be overwhelming for dogs.

STRANGE NOISES: The sounds of other animals, equipment, and people can be stressful.

UNFAMILIAR PEOPLE: New faces and unfamiliar voices can be intimidating.

CHANGE IN ROUTINE: The disruption of their normal routine can cause anxiety.

YOUR OWN STRESS: Dogs can sense your emotions, so if you're anxious, your dog may pick up on it.

BY UNDERSTANDING THESE FACTORS, YOU CAN HELP YOUR DOG FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE DURING THEIR VET VISIT.



MORE INFORMATION

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**TOP TIPS FOR
ACING EVERY VET
VISIT**

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BEFORE THE VISIT

Positive associations (also called co-operative care): Spend time handling your dog, touching their paws, ears, and mouth, while rewarding them with treats and praise. This helps create positive associations with being handled.

If possible visit the vet before your appointment when it's closed. If your vet is based in a pet shop that is open at the weekend when the vet section is closed this is the perfect opportunity for some desensitisation. However, just visiting the external building can help.



DURING THE VISIT

CHOOSE A QUITE TIME: If possible, schedule your appointment during a less busy time to minimise stress.

STAY CALM: Dogs can sense your anxiety, so try to remain calm and reassuring.

BRING FAMILIAR ITEMS: A favourite toy or blanket can provide comfort.

REWARD CALM BEHAVIOUR: Offer treats and praise when your dog is calm and cooperative during the examination.

ASK FOR HELP: If your dog is very anxious, ask the vet or vet nurse for help handling them.

AFTER THE VISIT

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT: Reward your dog with treats and praise for good behaviour during and after the visit.

REGULAR, SHORT VISITS: Schedule regular, short check-ups to help your dog become more accustomed to the vet environment.

REMEMBER, BE CONSISTENT WITH YOUR TRAINING AND REWARD POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR. IF YOUR DOG'S ANXIETY IS SEVERE, CONSULT A TRAINER FOR FURTHER GUIDANCE.

