

Finding the Right Veterinarian For Your New Puppy

One of the most important decisions you'll make is finding a quality healthcare provider for your new baby. Choosing the right veterinarian for your dog is something that you should carefully consider. This is the person that could potentially save your pet's life and keep them healthy.

Choosing a vet is a big step in your and your pet's lives. It is very important to spend lots of time researching and trying out a few different vets in order to find the one that fits you best.

Look out for a vet who is as passionate as they are well-educated. It's good to know your vet cares about your furry family member as much as you do. Always choose a vet with a clean, happy environment. A happy staff can change your day and make all the difference!!

Ask for personal references. One of the best ways to find the right veterinarian is to ask your neighbors, friends, family members who they use.

If you don't know where to start, search for some licensed vets near you. The Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) evaluates veterinary practices on the quality of their facilities, staff, equipment and patient care. Search their website at www.aahanet.org for a list of accredited vets in your area.



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When Should I Look For A Vet?

You should start looking for a vet as soon as you are inquiring on getting a puppy or getting on the waitlist. It is very important to have a trustworthy staff that cares about you and your pet(s)

What Questions Should I Ask When I am Selecting A Vet?

- Is their practice AAHA-accredited?
- What is the protocol for pain management?
- What are the emergency policies?
- Are boarding facilities available?
- Do they offer payment plans or insurance programs?

How Do I Decide Which Vet Is Right For Me And My Dog?

- Arrange an appointment for a day or two after you bring your new puppy home, just to speak with the veterinarian and get an overall feel of the facility
- During your appointment look around and consider whether the space is clean, modern and well-organized.
- Do you have good rapport with the vet? Effective communication is essential to any health care relationship.
- Ask questions! Don't be shy; most vets appreciate it when their clients take an interest in their pet's care.

What If I Have A Problem With My Vet? Can I switch?

Don't worry about leaving your current vet if you have any concerns about the quality of care. Most veterinary practices, like all businesses, expect clients to come and go. Before you leave, remember to ask for a complete copy of your dog's health records to be faxed over to your new vet.