



WATERHOUSE ANIMAL HOSPITAL, INC.

O F W O O D W A R D P A R K

At Waterhouse Animal Hospital we are doing everything we can to make you and your dog's visit to the veterinarian less stressful. We understand that it can be very scary for a pet to come to their doctor with all the strange smells, sounds, sights, and not to mention strangers! We are stepping up our efforts to make the visit to our hospital a more comfortable experience. While we are making some changes in the hospital, we encourage you to consider the following things prior to your visit:

1. Pet carriers-

If your pet is traveling in a carrier, keep it out at home where your dog can investigate it. You can help get your pet used to it by placing some of their food or favorite treats into it. Don't forget to put a comfortable blanket in it. When carrying the carrier, make sure you don't allow it to swing and place it in an area of the car where it will be upright and will not rock.

2. Fun visits to the hospital-

You may practice fun visits at our clinic any time! Just bring your dog to the front door or into the lobby for some low stress interaction and treats. This will allow your pet to become accustomed to the clinic and that visit to the doctor won't be as big of a deal when your pet needs vaccines or is not feeling well. Don't forget to bring your own treats if your pet is on a special diet.

3. Treats-

During appointments we will try to use more treats to make your pet more comfortable and their visit more fun. Bringing your pet in a little hungry will make them more excited about the savory morsels. You may feed them ½ of their breakfast, or even skip breakfast if you have a morning appointment. We will have treats in the clinic, but will make sure with you that it is ok to give them. If your pet is on a special diet (i.e. prescription diet), please bring their own treats or food.

4. Use Adaptil-

Adaptil is a pheromone spray that is scentless for humans, but can help calm your dog. It has been shown to reduce anxiety in stressful situations. You can purchase Adaptil wipes and spray. It is also available in a collar (great for travel) and a diffuser you can use at home. If using a carrier to transport your dog, wipe down or spray the carrier when it is sitting out (don't do it right before you put the dog in it as it can be a bit overpowering until it dries).

5. Relax-

Your dog is very good at reading your body language. If you are nervous or anxious about the visit, your dog will know. Don't be embarrassed if your dog is not perfectly obedient. We understand that sometimes the behavior they demonstrate in our hospital is not the behavior they demonstrate at home. Sometimes dogs that are well housetrained may have an accident while they are here. Don't worry, we are prepared and will clean it up promptly.

If you have additional questions about how you can help make your dog's trip to the hospital less stressful, feel free to ask us. We want your dog's visit to the veterinarian to be as low stress as you do!