

## **VET CLINIC ETIQUETTE**



**ONE OF MY BIGGEST PET PEEVES IS ILL MANNERED PETS AND OWNERS IN VET CLINICS !!**

- 1. LEAVE YOUR DOG /CAT IN THE CAR GO INTO THE VET OFFICE CHECK IN WITH THE RECEPTIONIST AND LOOK AROUND THE WAITING ROOM TO ACCESS THE SITUATION WITH OTHER DOGS /CATS IN THE WAITING ROOM.**
- 2. ALWAYS KEEP YOUR PET IN THE CAR, IN CRATE (IF POSSIBLE AND NOT TOO WARM) UNTIL SUCH TIME THAT YOU ARE CALLED FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT.**
- 3. NEVER TAKE YOUR DOG IN ON A FLEXI-LEAD!!! USE EITHER A KENNEL LEAD OR COLLAR WITH LEAD. IF STILL YOUNG AND HASN'T HAD HIS SECOND SHOTS YET-CARRY YOUR PUPPY IN. KEEP YOUR DOG CLOSE TO YOU AND BEHAVED. DO NOT MEET AND GREET EVERY OTHER DOG IN THE VET CLINIC. MANY DOGS ARE SICK OR VERY STRESSED AND CAN LASH OUT AT THIS TIME. ALTHOUGH YOUR DOG IS WONDERFUL TO YOU NOT EVERYONE ELSE THINKS SO.**
- 4. DO NOT ALLOW OTHERS TO LET THEIR DOG COME UP TO YOURS. A SIMPLE EXTENSION OF YOUR ARM AND HAND WILL DIVERT THE OTHER DOG FROM APPROACHING AND SHOULD LET THE OTHER OWNER KNOW THAT THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO YOU.**
- 5. NO BARKING!!!NO PULLING ON LEASH!!! TAKE IN TREATS WITH YOU IF NECESSARY TO KEEP YOUR DOGS FOCUS ON YOU.**
- 6. DO NOT INSIST ON RESTRAINING YOUR PET YOURSELF IN THE EXAM ROOM. THEY HAVE TRAINED STAFF FOR THAT. YOU PROBABLY HAVE NO IDEA HOW MANY LAWSUITS HAVE RESULTED FROM OWNERS BEING BITTEN BY THEIR PETS AFTER INSISTING THEY HOLD THEIR OWN ANIMALS DURING AN EXAM. THE LAW IS CLEAR ON THIS: VETERINARIANS ARE LIABLE.**

**7. DO NOT INTERACT WITH YOUR PET WHEN THEY ARE TRYING TO GET THEIR BUSINESS DONE. IF THEY NEED YOUR HELP WITH THE PET, THEY WILL ASK. AND ESPECIALLY, FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, DO NOT TRY TO REASSURE YOUR PET BY CARESSING HER EAR RIGHT AT THE MOMENT SHE'S HAVING HER BLOOD DRAWN, A STOOL SAMPLE TAKEN OR TOENAILS TRIMMED. THESE ARE INVARIABLY THE MOST SENSITIVE MOMENTS OF THE VISIT AND YOUR INTERVENTION IS MORE LIKELY TO TIP THE SCALES AGAINST EVERYONE'S SAFETY THAN IN YOUR PET'S FAVOR.**

**8. ALWAYS BRING A LIST. ALWAYS ASK FOR WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS. ALWAYS LISTEN TO WHAT THE VET STAFF HAS TO SAY. AND ALWAYS BE PREPARED TO USE YOUR OWN GOOD SENSE, AS WELL. I CAN PROMISE YOU IF YOU DO THESE THINGS, YOU'LL ENDEAR YOURSELF TO YOUR VETERINARIAN. THEY ARE SUCKERS FOR THE DEDICATED AND THE PREPARED. THERE ARE NO STUPID QUESTIONS, JUST UNREASONABLE EXPECTATIONS ON BOTH SIDES.**

**9. IF IT IS A VISIT THAT IS MORE THAN YOUR ROUTINE CHECKUP, SHOTS, ETC. CONTACT YOUR BREEDER FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE AND KNOWLEDGE. THEY CAN MOST LIKELY ASSIST YOU WITH ASKING THE CORRECT QUESTIONS .**

**10. DO NOT USE YOUR CELL PHONE EITHER IN THE WAITING ROOM OR IN THE EXAM ROOM-IT'S JUST TACKY!!! YOU'RE NOT PAYING ATTENTION TO EITHER YOUR DOG, THE DOGS AROUND YOU OR THE VET!**

**IF YOU HAVE A VET AS WONDERFUL AS MINE THAT WILL GET ME IN AT A MOMENTS NOTICE SHOW THEM YOU APPRECIATE THEM WITH TREATS, CARDS OR OTHER GIFTS OF APPRECIATION. PERHAPS I GET THE QUALITY CARE BECAUSE I DO SPOIL MY VET OFFICE!!**

**BE CONSIDERATE OF EVERYONE AT THE HOSPITAL INCLUDING OTHER VISITORS!!!**