

# Best Tips For Better CANINE VET VISITS



While we would be thrilled if every dog that walked through our doors wanted to be here, we understand that the vet can be a difficult experience for dogs. These tips provided by **Canis Major Dog Training** can help your dog *and* you have better vet visits.

## Arrive Early & Decompress

Plan to arrive about ten minutes early.

Call us when you arrive, no need to wait in the lobby! Instead, walk your dog around outdoors allowing them to sniff or hang out and observe things from a distance.

Don't forget to cleanup any waste!

## Skip The Meet & Greets

Don't allow your dog to enter the personal space of others.

Greetings with other animals can add a lot of extra stress, whether excitement or fear. To ensure your dog stays close and in consideration of others use a regular leash instead of a retractable.

## Bring The Good Stuff

The simplest way to help your dog feel better about the vet is by bringing along their favorite things.

An exceptionally good food, like a meat or chewy treat, will work wonders for many dogs, but if your dog is crazy for toys bring those instead! If bringing toys please avoid squeakies as to not disturb other dogs.

## Bring Familiarity

Our dogs find comfort in things that are familiar to them.

A practical option could be their favorite bed, blanket, or mat as it can also provide better footing on the slick floors. For extra benefit, spray that item with Thunderease Calming Spray before heading to your appointment.

## Teach Useful Skills

“Place” or “Bed” - A skill directing your dog to go to a spot, relax, and wait for your release word

“Chin target” - A skill directing your dog to rest their chin on a specific surface and wait for your release word

“Stand-wait” - A skill directing your dog to stand on all fours and wait for your release word

## Discuss Medication With Us

Some dogs need more help than others to cope with vet visits, and that is okay!

We can work together to assess and decide if your dog could benefit from a situational medication to keep them more relaxed during vet appointments.