



# happy tails dog training

*Happy dogs, Happy homes!*

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## Make Vet Visits ~ Fun?

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Going to vet - most dogs resist entering, pant heavily in the waiting area, whine, cry, or even full out panic. When you get a new puppy, it is much easier to make the vet a fun place. But even adult dogs and fearful dogs can learn to enjoy (or at least better tolerate) their vet experience. Here are some tips to make the vet a fun place to go ~ or at least a not a scary place!

- ✓ Bring your dog to the vet office during a quiet time of day, go into the lobby and give your dog 10 yummy treats, then leave again. This teaches the dog that not every visit results in shots or exams. Be sure to check with the staff for the best times to stop by.
- ✓ Ask the vet staff - either on your regular visits or your stop bys - if they have time to say a quick hello and offer your dog a yummy treat. If your dog is fearful of the staff, ask the staff to stand quietly nearby while you give your dog treats. This creates a new association for the dog: the vet staff = yummy treats!
- ✓ When you go for a "real" visit, remember to stay calm. Your demeanor will transfer to your dog. If you are upset and anxious, your dog will be too.
- ✓ Bring your dogs favorite treats, toy, and/or chewy along to the visit. Be sure to keep your dog away from other dogs in the waiting area if you give a toy or a chewy - you do not want a doggy war on your hands!
- ✓ While waiting either in the lobby area or exam room, calmly pet your dog and speak in soft, happy tones. Tell him/her what a good dog he/she is and offer treats for good, calm behavior from your dog.
- ✓ Ask the vet to take a moment to gently pet your dog and offer your dog a treat prior to the exam. This creates the association that all contact from the vet is not scary or painful, but can be pleasant and even result in treats!
- ✓ Go someplace or do something fun before and/or after the vet visit so your time with your dog is not just about the exam and the shots. Spend a few minutes walking at a local park, stop for a doggy ice-cream on the way home, or have a quick game of tug in the parking lot.