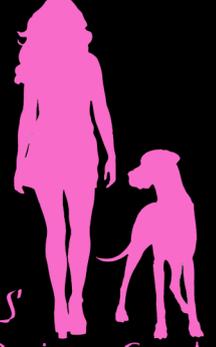


Vet Checks



Vet checks are a fact of your puppies life and it's great to set them up for success before hand so that they have a positive experience

Heather Thomas

Behaviour Consultant and Business Coach

The Vets can be a strange environment with different smells and experiences; one minute your dog is on the ground, the next he is suddenly high up on a table being prodded by a uniformed stranger. You can see why some dogs avoid the surgery doors and why some have to be muzzled as soon as they enter.

With the correct preparation you can get it right from day one, or try to help dogs already wary of the vet's to overcome their fears.

Training a 'hand touch'

Have a small piece of treat in your hand, between your fingers , with your hand flat, palm facing them.

hold your hand out and let your dog get the treat from your hand. As soon as they touch your hand use your marker word or clicker. Repeat this a few times until your dog gets the hang of it

Remove the treat from between your fingers and hold another treat in your other hand behind your back (without dog seeing) then put your free hand out and say touch. If your dog touches your hand mark the behaviour and reward with the treat from the other hand. If you puppy didn't touch your hand then go back to step 1.

Once your pup gets the hang of "nose-touching the right hand means I get a treat from the left" you can start to add in the cue word of "touch" as you present your hand (get the nose touch , say 'good' and reward with a treat as before).

Teach your dog to stand at the surgery; this makes it easier for the vet to check him over and get a temperature reading with the rectal thermometer.

Give your dog the best possible opportunity to feel good at the vet's by practising this simple, fun exercise at home. Your vet will thank you for it, and so will your dog

Many examinations and injections are carried out on an examination table. Training your dog to stand will help the vet inspect him and perform procedures like taking his temperature. During an examination they need to remain still and relatively happy. An excellent way to achieve this is with the use of a stuffed Kong. Next time they are lifted on to the table they will be anticipating a tasty Kong and perhaps not a thermometer!



If your pet is experiencing behavioural problems and you need help, please get in touch