

BEHAVIOR CONSULTATION PROTOCOL

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Before the appointment:

To make an accurate diagnosis and develop an appropriate treatment plan, it is essential to get a comprehensive history. Please complete the appropriate (cat or dog) questionnaire.

FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO OUR OFFICE BY MAIL, FAX OR E-MAIL AT LEAST 1 BUSINESS DAY PRIOR TO YOUR CONSULTATION.

Please ask your veterinarian to also complete the attached referral form and send any recent laboratory work up prior to your appointment.

What does the appointment entail?

The behavioral appointment will take at least 60 minutes, but can take 90 minutes depending on the complexity of the case. (Aggression taking longer) This appointment includes an assessment of the diagnosis, the prognosis and how quickly, safely and effectively you are likely to be able to control or resolve the problem. Treatment plans including behavioral modifications, commercially available products that may be beneficial and the possibility of drug therapy are described. Handouts will also be supplied.

What do I need for the appointment itself?

- *It is recommended that the main caretakers for the pet be present (maximum 3). Since the sessions are 1-2 hours, they are usually inappropriate for younger children.
- *Bring along the problem pet(s). If the problem is aggression between two household pets, it is beneficial to have both at the appointment unless it is too dangerous.
- *Videotapes of behavior if possible is very helpful and recommended.
- *DO NOT induce a behavior if it entails aggression or induces fear in the pet.
- *It is important to see the pet in its normal surroundings and its interactions with the owner/other people/pets in the household. For example: In the case of housesoiling cats, video footage of the litter box and litter box locations, areas previously soiled and interactions of the problem cat with the other cats (if present in the home) can be very helpful.
- *These video clips can be dropped off prior to the appointment or brought to the consultation. Cell phone video is even helpful!

What types of cases are seen?

*All types of behavioral problems in dogs and cats ranging from aggression, anxieties, fears, phobias, housoiling, barking, hyperactivity disorders and compulsive disorders are typically seen.

*Puppy and kitten problems such as excessive play, scratching, jumping, chewing, nipping, housetraining are also seen and usually require only 30-60 minutes.

Fees:

*My fee is \$315.00 for the behavioral consultation.

*There may be additional diagnostics that will be recommended at the appointment depending on the case and these costs are not included in the consultation fee.

*This fee includes a 3 week follow up appointment for 30 minutes.

* If the case is complicated (medically and/or behaviorally) then a follow-up appointment may be needed within 2 - 4 weeks to cover the complete behavior protocol and this follow-up appointment fee is \$85.00.

*Fees include routine telephone/e-mail follow –ups for 2 months.

*After 2 months, a re-check will be required.

*Puppy and kitten problems (described above) requiring a limited consult is \$85.00.

Any questions concerning the appointment can be addressed by calling Mesa Animal Hospital at 480-833-7330.