

BEHAVIOR CONSULTATION PROTOCOL

Dr. Kelly Moffat

VCA Mesa Animal Hospital

Phone 480-833-7330

Fax 480-833-0124

e-mail to front desk: behavior.moffat@vca.com

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 ONE BUSINESS DAY PRIOR TO YOUR CONSULTATION.

Cancellation of an appointment MUST be **one business day** in advance to return the deposit.

Please as your veterinarian to also complete the referral form and sent any recent laboratory work up prior to your appointment.

What does the appointment entail?

The initial behavioral appointment will take at approximately 60 minutes. A second appointment is generally needed 3-4 weeks later. The initial 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. Initial treatment plans including a few behavioral modification recommendations will be introduced, commercially available products that may be beneficial, and the possibility of drug therapy are described. Handouts will also be supplied and a personalized case synopsis will be sent either by mail or e-mail within a week of the appointment. The results we see can vary depending on the safety of the particular animal/behavioral problem, the owner's ability to dedicate the time and effort into behavioral modifications, and the motivational state of the pet.

Follow up appointment:

Your pet will need a minimum of one 60 minute follow up consultation - The results we see can vary depending on the safety of the particular animal/behavioral problem, the owner's ability to dedicate the time and effort into behavioral modifications, and the motivational state of the pet – Additional 60 minute consultations may be necessary.

What do I need for the appointment itself?

- It is recommended that the main caretakers for the pet be present (maximum 3) due to the nature of the consultations it is usually inappropriate for younger children to attend
- 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 is possible are very helpful and recommended
 - **DO NOT induce a behavior for the sake of video if it entails aggression or**

induces fear in the pet.

- It **is** helpful 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 house soiling 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 e-mailed or brought to the consultation. Cell phone video is easy and generally sufficient!

What type of cases are seen?

- Behavioral problems in dogs and cats ranging from aggression, anxieties, fears, phobias, house soiling, barking, hyperactivity disorders, and compulsive disorders are typically seen.
- Puppy and kitten problems such as excessive play, scratching, jumping, chewing, nipping, and house training are also seen.

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