



Veterinary Hospital Scavenger Hunt **CANINE**

First and Last Name: _____

Date: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Dog's Name: _____

As part of promoting Fear FreeSM veterinary visits, our hospital encourages you to visit us with your canine companion just for fun. We have put together a scavenger hunt of activities to help create a successful fun visit. Once you complete the card, turn it in at the hospital to be entered into our monthly drawing for a prize. To build positive memories with the veterinary hospital, we recommend frequent fun visits. You may complete a fun visit and enter the drawing as often as once a day.

As long as your dog does not already have an existing fear of the veterinary hospital, this will be a fun and appropriate game for you to play together.

The scavenger hunt starts with at home preparation. Make sure your dog is relaxed and comfortable with travel in the car. Using a crate or dog seat belt are safe options for car travel. Acclimate your dog to the seat belt and/or crate by incorporating yummy treats with these things. A long lasting food storage toy stuffed with frozen canned dog food, may keep your dog preoccupied and relaxed during the entire car travel. During transport, a non-slip surface should be utilized to prevent your dog from sliding. Bring your dog's favorite treats, toys, and grooming brush (if your dog enjoys being brushed). Prepare the car so it promotes a calming environment; calming familiar music, calming scents, and cool or warm the car to room temperature before putting your dog in the car.

Preparing for the visit:

- Dog is hungry
- 50 to 100 very small favorite treats. Treats should be no larger than a half of a pea. You might not use all of them but you should count on using at least 40. Better to have too many than not enough.
- Favorite toys and/or grooming brush
- Your dog is acclimated to car travel and is relaxed during transport
- Your dog has an opportunity to relieve himself before getting in the car
- The car is properly prepared; calming familiar music, calming scents, appropriate temperature, non-slip surface, long lasting food storage device

When you arrive:

- Give your dog a small 1/4 inch treat once you park
- Check with front office team members before coming into the hospital with your dog
- Verify your dog is relaxed

List 3 to 4 indicators that your dog is relaxed:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

- Give 2 or 3 small treats to your dog upon approaching the building
- Give 2 or 3 small treats to your dog for entering the lobby. Reinforce calm behavior frequently (every 5-20 seconds) while waiting to go in an exam room.

Scale:

- Allow your dog to get on the scale by himself; keep the leash loose
- Either toss some treats on the scale or if your dog knows how to follow a hand target, cue him onto the scale and give him a treat.

Have questions or unable to find something? We are here to help. A team member would be more than happy to help you!

In the exam room:

The goal is to make the exam room a fun and relaxing place for your dog. Engage your dog in some of his/her favorite activities. Offer your dog special treats to help create a pleasant association with the exam room. Work at your dog's pace.

- Allow your dog to explore the room at his/her own pace
- Offer treats, toys, and brushing with calm and relaxed attention from you

Find the following Fear FreeSM environmental enhancements we have made in our hospital waiting area and/or exam room to create a pleasant experience for you and your dog:

- What type of music do you hear? _____

A slow tempo of piano music may have a calming effect on you and your dog

- We utilize calming scents in our hospital. Identify and list a calming scent and/or pheromone you see being used in our hospital.

Scent/pheromone: _____

Location: _____

- What type of lighting are we using to create a more relaxed and calm atmosphere?

Lighting type: _____

Location: _____

- We try to provide your dog with non-slip surfaces in our hospital. Identify one that you see in the exam room or lobby.

Team Member Interactions

Our team is specially trained to make our interactions with your dog as pleasant as possible. When meeting a dog, it is best to let them make the first move. Playing hard to get, will indicate to your dog that we are not threatening. Here are some things you should see us do when first interacting with animals in the hospital. Cross off each interaction you see and include the team members name or initials.

- _____ Avoid direct eye contact
- _____ Turn sideways to appear smaller and less threatening
- _____ Allow the pet to approach rather than approaching the pet
- _____ Move smoothly and calmly
- _____ Talk slowly and softly (spa like tone)
- _____ Use treats with interactions

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