

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 **ONE BUSINESS DAY** PRIOR TO YOUR CONSULTATION. Cancellation of an appointment **MUST** be **one business day** in advance to return the deposit.

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

What does the appointment entail?

The initial behavioral appointment will take at least 60 minutes, but often can take 90 minutes depending on the complexity of the case. (Aggression often taking longer) This 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 behavioral modifications, 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 and e-mail within a week of the appointment. A 3-4 week 30 minute follow up appointment that is included in the initial consultation will be scheduled as well.

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 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 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 e-mailed or brought to the consultation. Cell phone video is easy and generally sufficient!

What types of cases are seen?

*All types of behavioral problems in dogs and cats ranging from aggression, anxieties, fears, phobias, housesoiling, 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. (animals less than 6 months of age)

Fees:

*Fee is \$479.50 for the behavioral consultation for dogs and \$391.50 for cats. A \$50.00 deposit is requested to hold the appointment slot

*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 consultation includes a 3-4 week follow-up appointment for 30 minutes to review the case and make any additional recommendations.

*If the case is complicated (medically and/or behaviorally) then a follow-up appointment will be needed within another 6-8 weeks to cover the complete behavior protocol and this follow-up appointment fee is \$130.70. (45 minutes)

*Fees include routine telephone/e-mail follow –up to 2 months only.

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

*Puppy and kitten problems (described above) requiring a limited consult are \$130.70.

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