



Vet Visit Tips

- * **Practice at home!** Teach your dog to at least tolerate being touched everywhere on their body (see Socialization Checklist.) If your dog shows any aggressive or fearful behavior during practice, reach out to your trainer for help.
- * Bring a variety of your dog's **favorite treats and toys**, including at least one high value food item (examples include chicken, spray cheese, or peanut butter.)
- * Talk to your veterinarian about scheduling "**fun visits**" that are purely for building a positive relationship between your dog and their vet care team. These visits can be to practice calm handling, getting used to medical equipment, or getting comfortable in the exam room.
- * **Skip waiting in the lobby**; waiting rooms and lobbies can be stressful and crowded. Instead, call ahead and ask if there are any forms you can fill out electronically to save time. When you arrive for your appointment, you can check in at the front desk and wait in your car until the exam room is ready for you and your dog.
- * Teaching your dog to be comfortable wearing a **muzzle** is recommended for all dogs, but especially dogs that do not tolerate handling well or are fearful or aggressive toward strangers (see The Muzzle Up Project.)
- * Do not be afraid to **advocate for your dog**. You know your dog better than anyone, so speak up! If your dog is not comfortable with someone on the veterinary team, try to facilitate trust building by using treats and toys. If your dog is showing signs of stress, ask if you can take a break.