

Your role on your pet's healthcare team

Pets need the help of their human companions to stay healthy and happy. They need you and your veterinarian to form a healthcare team for their well-being.

When questions or concerns about your pet arise, discuss it with your veterinarian or a veterinary professional. Talking with your veterinarian or other veterinary professional allows you to create an effective healthcare team for your pet.



Owning a pet can be one of the most joyful and rewarding experiences you can have if you and your pet are the right match. Let your veterinarian help you start that relationship right.



Find a veterinarian online!

If you do not have a veterinarian, the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association can refer you to one of its 2,300 members.

Visit our website at www.wvma.org and use the Find-A-Veterinarian database, or call the WVMA office at 608-257-3665.

Questions?

For questions or additional information, contact the WVMA.

608-257-3665 | wvma@wvma.org



Vets Know Pets



Talk with your veterinarian

Veterinarians know more about pets than anyone else

Like doctors for humans, veterinarians go to school for additional education after they earn their college degree, plus get many hours of continuing education annually. Some eventually become board certified in particular areas of animal health. An individual veterinarian will help thousands of animals each year live full and happy lives.

Whenever you have a question or concern about your pet, talk with your veterinarian first. Your veterinarian can provide information on all aspects of your animal's health and well-being.



Talk with your veterinarian about choosing a pet

Before you choose a pet, make an appointment to talk with your veterinarian. Your veterinarian can help you choose a pet to fit your family and lifestyle.

When choosing a pet, consider:

- Type of animal
- Size of animal
- Breed characteristics
- Your family members
- Your lifestyle and living space
- Costs of animal health care



Talk with your veterinarian to help your pet live a long, healthy life

Your veterinarian can advise you on all aspects of your animal's well-being, including health care, training and behavior challenges, nutrition, exercise and grooming.

Regular exams are critical to long-term health for animals. Since pets can't tell you when they are sick, it is important to have younger animals examined annually and older animals examined more frequently. In animal years, an annual exam equates to visiting the doctor every five to seven years. These exams can catch small problems and prevent unnecessary pain, heartache and expense.

Animals are no different than humans when it comes to long-term health. Diet, exercise and a working relationship with the veterinarian are key elements to keeping your pets healthy and happy throughout their lives.

Talk with your veterinarian about what you can do for your pet at home

You are a critical part of your pet's healthcare team! There is a lot you can do in between veterinarian visits to keep your pet healthy and happy.

Veterinarians can give tips and instructions on ways to best take care of your pets including:

- Nutrition
- Exercise programs
- Dental care
- Grooming
- Parasite prevention
- Behavior training
- Observation for signs of disease or illness

Your veterinarian knows pets

There are numerous sources of pet care information. However, not all of them provide accurate information.

If you have questions, talk with your veterinarian first. Veterinarians have many resources available: books, websites and connections to other expert veterinarians. To make sure information is accurate, bring it to your veterinarian. He or she can review and discuss it with you.

