

AVOIDING ANXIETY IN THE VETERINARY PATIENT

Nelle Wyatt, LVMT. CPDT-KA

Unfortunately we may not have the opportunity to condition a relaxed veterinary patient. Anxious pets may respond aggressively during veterinary visits. Steps can be taken by pet owners and veterinary team members to help reduce the anxiety associated with travel to and experiences at the veterinary hospital.

Handling exercises that clients perform at home can help condition pets to common physical examination manipulations. The utilization of head halters and basket muzzles that anxious dogs have been trained to wear prior to the visit provide additional safety for veterinary team members. Lower stress inducing towel wraps for restraint can reduce anxiety in both cats and dogs.