



LEFT HAND

Animal Hospital

What is low stress handling and how does it change my pet's visit?

Here at Left Hand Animal Hospital, all of us, including reception staff, nurse-technicians, and doctors are trained in low stress handling techniques for your animals. We limit time for you and your pet in our waiting area, allowing you and your pet to settle into a comfortable exam room more rapidly. We offer catnip, toys, and snacks for cats, as well as pheromones and comfy cat beds to calm them. Our dog friends are invited to play with toys from the toy bins and have squishy dog beds to snuggle. Pets are generally examined where they are most comfortable, whether it is on a pet bed or on the floor or on a lap. Most exams are done with toys and snacks and lots of praise; in fact, you and your pet may not even notice that the doctor is checking your pet's lungs, heart, lymph nodes, joints, and whole body health. Blood draws are done with low stress handling techniques, and vaccinations and treatments are done with snacks and toys.

If your pet has to stay with us in the hospital, we will provide a comfortable bed, blankets, and a soft toy for him or her to cuddle. If you wish, bring your pet's favorite cuddle toy, as it helps remind him or her of home. If you wish, bring your pet's food from home; otherwise, we will provide snacks and meals.

All of this means that we spend a bit more time with each patient. Your appointment will be scheduled to provide for this time. Please feel free to arrive a few minutes before your scheduled exam to allow your animal time to relax before the nurse-technician starts your exam. Please limit feeding before your appointment so that we can use snacks to enhance your pet's visit. Ask for toys and snacks for your pet, or, please feel free to bring your pet's favorite snack or toy with him or her. We may have music designed specifically to calm your pet playing in your exam room.

If your pet anxious at the vet, please let us know before your appointment so that we can suggest supplements to ease your pet's stress. We may ask you to pick up supplements, medications, pheromone sprays or Thundershirts before your visit to use for your pet before his or her visit. If you have questions about how to make your pet's carrier or car ride to the vet less worrisome, please ask our knowledgeable staff.

If your pet is exhibiting signs of extreme worry during your visit, we will try to soothe your pet. You may be able to help us by telling what helps your pet feel relaxed. If needed, we will ask your pet to take anti-anxiety medications and return at another time. We are here to help make your pet's visit as stress less as possible.

We hope your pet's visit with us will be fun, relaxing, and helpful to your pet's whole body health!