

**BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS
ARE A LEADING
REASON PEOPLE
GIVE UP THEIR PETS**

*We help pets stay
with their families.*

**Common behavior
problems in companion
animals include:**

Dogs: aggression, barking, destructiveness, digging, fear, house-soiling, phobias, and separation anxiety

Cats: aggression, fear, house soiling, over-grooming, scratching, and urine marking

Birds: aggression, anxiety, fear, and feather picking

Rabbits: aggression, fear, house soiling, and urine marking

University of California
Veterinary Medical Center – San Diego

10435 Sorrento Valley Rd., Suite 101
San Diego, California 92121
Phone: 858-875-7505
Fax: 858-875-7583
vetbehavior@vmth.ucdavis.edu



Appointment information
and detailed directions
may be obtained by calling
the phone number above.



School of Veterinary Medicine

University of California
Veterinary Medical Center
San Diego

Behavior Service



*A Division of the
UC Davis School of
Veterinary Medicine*



What is the Behavior Service at the UC Veterinary Medical Center?

The mission of the Behavior Service, and the UC Veterinary Medical Center, as a whole is three fold:

- to provide high quality veterinary services
- to educate veterinary students and post-graduate veterinarians
- to discover, apply, and disseminate new knowledge

Behavior consultations are conducted by highly qualified, experienced veterinarians with a sincere interest in maintaining the human-animal bond.

The Behavior Service works in affiliation with the nation's largest veterinary behavior program, at UC Davis.

Our Approach to Clinical Animal Behavior

We derive our humane behavior modification techniques from the field of Applied Animal Behavior, where veterinary and behavioral science professionals apply scientific principles learned from the study of animal behavior in the wild, learning theory and counseling. In the clinic, we use these techniques to help owners solve their pets' behavior problems. As veterinary behaviorists, we are able to prescribe medications, which are occasionally used in conjunction with behavior modification therapy. We are also trained to evaluate your pet for medical conditions that can affect behavior.

What Typically Happens During a Behavior Consultation?

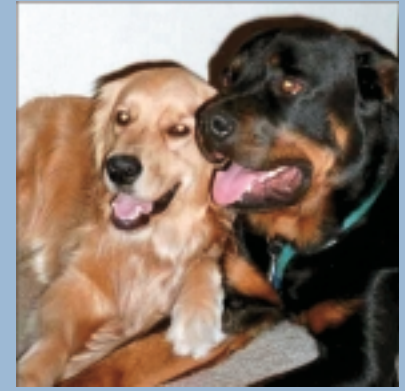
The first step is to schedule an appointment with the Behavior Service. We give our clients a great deal of information, and therefore, we recommend that everyone in the family be included in the initial consultation.

To begin, we take a detailed history of the pet's behavior. To help evaluate the pet, we recommend that clients make videotapes of their pets at home and in problem situations, if it is safe to do so. The doctor reviews the videotapes, the pet's behavior during the appointment and the history to determine one or more behavioral diagnoses. Diagnoses are based on the underlying motivation for the behavior. At that point, a treatment plan is developed, tailored to the pet's problem and the family's lifestyle. We design flexible treatment plans, so if one method does not work out well for a family, other methods are available.

We demonstrate and/or explain procedures and techniques prescribed during the consultation and provide printed instructions. The majority of follow-up care is conducted over the phone. Since the pet owner who carries out the recommended treatment plan at home, we rely on the client to call us for clarification or support, following the consultation. Only the people living with the pet have the power to change the animal's behavior, but we are willing to help them every step of the way. *We help clients understand their pets' behavior as they strive to reach the goals they have for their animals.*

We recommend recheck appointments for pets that have severe or complicated problems. The success of a treatment plan depends upon how our recommendations are carried out by the pet's family. We teach owners how to change and manage their pets' behavior, and in most cases, we help people effectively improve their pets' behavior problems.

Please note: *Although we discuss cases with veterinarians by telephone, we cannot do telephone behavior consultations for owners. We must have an established doctor-patient relationship before we may treat an animal.*



The Role of the Primary Care Veterinarian

Before a behavior consultation, we recommend the pet should have a complete physical examination, including blood and urine testing, done by their primary care veterinarian. It is the primary care veterinarian who will assist the owner in the lifelong care of the pet. Therefore, we encourage the involvement of that veterinarian in the implementation of our treatment plan. We provide a detailed referral letter and phone call to the primary care veterinarian following the behavior consultation.

