

‘Head Start’ Consultations

Our clinicians at the Behavioral Medicine Clinic at the Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center provide this problem-prevention-focused consultation to help owners set up their new pets for success. This consultation is intended to help owners of puppies and kittens, as well as those who have recently adopted or rescued an adult dog or cat.

Who benefits from a ‘Head Start’ consultation?

Everyone interacting with your pet will benefit from this consultation. Your pet will learn to interact safely and appropriately with people and animals. You will receive a plan for success that will encourage your pet to blossom into an emotionally secure and obedient pet.

Puppy consultations will cover:

- Normal canine development
- House training
- Socialization
- Crate training
- Prevention and management of “mouthy” behaviors
- Basic manners – How to train and when to treat
- Preparation for grooming and body care
- Appropriate play behaviors and energy outlets
- Preparation for car travel and vet visits

Kitten consultations will cover:

- Normal feline development
- Socialization
- Litter box training and maintenance
- Environmental enrichment
- Preparation for grooming and body care
- Appropriate play behaviors and energy outlets
- Preparation for car travel and vet visits
- Training exercises for function and fun

Recently adopted/rescued dog or cat

This consultation applies to dogs and cats of any age that have been recently adopted or rescued from a certified shelter, humane society or rescue organization. Consultation for adopted pets will be tailored to the individual and will cover topics that are applicable, such as:

- What it means to be a rescued or re-homed pet
- Creating and nurturing an appropriate human-animal bond with your pet and all members of your family
- Teaching your pet to be comfortable being home alone and prevent separation anxiety
- Prevention of destructive behaviors
- Providing an enriched environment for a rescued pet
- Helping the shy or fearful pet adjust



Behavioral Medicine ‘Head Start’ Consultations

Scheduling a ‘Head Start’ consultation

You can schedule an appointment by calling the Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center client line at **614-292-3551**. Afternoon, evening and Saturday appointments are occasionally available to accommodate most schedules. Appointments are up to one hour in length. Please plan to arrive 15 minutes early for registration.

‘Head Start’ consultation fees

\$150 for a one-hour appointment (includes hospital administrative fees)

Follow-up is not included. If you are interested in continued contact with our clinicians, a recheck appointment can be scheduled.

Additional costs may include training aids, such as collars, harnesses, clickers, and books. These items can be supplied by our pharmacy, if needed. These fees will be discussed before any services are performed or items are ordered for your pet.



Please note:

The ‘Head Start’ consultation is intended as a problem-prevention session. It is not designed to treat known behavior problems. If a potentially serious behavior problem is discovered during your consultation, our clinicians may recommend a follow-up appointment so that your pet’s problems can be addressed and managed more thoroughly. If your recently adopted pet is displaying aggression problems, please contact your adoption agency and/or set up a regular Behavior Medicine appointment.