

Choosing a good vet



Veterinary practices are businesses and come in a range of shapes and sizes. It can be difficult to select the right vet for you as they differ with services offered, facilities available, staff, and fees. To ensure the health of your pet dog, careful thought should be given to choosing a suitable vet so that a long lasting relationship can develop. It is entirely your decision as to the vet that you choose and well worth your while to do your homework and fully research your options before you make a decision. Here are a few considerations for you to note. Feel free to ask if you

Experience & qualifications

Naturally, all vets will be qualified and have some experience in treating a range of different species, however personal interest and experience means that all will have certain animals that they are more familiar with and knowledgeable on.

Bedside Manner

No matter how experienced and technically competent they are, an abrupt, uncommunicative or impatient vet is not satisfactory. It is important that you feel comfortable enough with your vet to discuss any concerns you may have and to feel that you are getting the best advice for the situation.

Location

Accessibility for you is another important factor, particularly if you have to cope with an emergency, or if you need to make multiple visits for treatments. Also think about traffic congestion and parking for example.

Availability

Sometimes you may need to consult your vet after-hours, at weekends and on public holidays. Different surgeries will have different office hours and weekend attendance, as well as different on-call policies for its vets. It is worth asking the questions before finding yourself in an awkward situation, and having the number ready for **24 hour** help should a problem arise. Should you require out of hours help, **Vetfone** provides a 24 hour helpline ran by RCVS registered vet nurses: call 08001974949 or 09065 00 55 00 (charged at £1.50 per minute plus network extras), or use the contact form on their website.

Facilities & services

With regards to facilities, having a larger welcoming area for your pet, where you can wait away from other strange dogs and commotion can be very handy. Many veterinary practices now link with other reputable services, or provide additional services themselves. Many vets also sub-specialise (e.g. cardiologists, dermatologists, radiologists, etc.) and it can be handy to know that your vet is knowledgeable in a certain field.

Costs

It is worth asking around and comparing prices. While many vaccinations, medications and procedures may have a standard charge, prices can differ between surgeries.

Regulation

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) is the regulatory body for veterinary surgeons in the UK and ensures that standards within the veterinary profession are maintained. For further information please visit the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) website

www.rcvs.org.uk/home/

