

# DOGS

## Welfare friendly examination procedure without the owner

Remember that a trip to the veterinary practice constitutes a significant routine change for the dogs. Thanks to the attachment bond, dogs feel safe when the owner is present. Without the owner, the dog might feel anxious and fearful.

It is useful to habituate your dog not only to manipulation (check ears, eyes, paws....) before a consultation but also to wear an appropriate basket muzzle (it could be required at some point).

Bring some favourite toys and treats to create positive emotions at the clinic.



### ARRIVAL AT THE CLINIC

1. Look for a safe area far from other dogs in the waiting room.
2. Observe your dog's body language – certain signs may indicate that your dog is anxious and fearful (licking, yawn, turn head, away, cower, tuck tail, whine or withdraw).



### BEFORE THE CONSULTATION

1. Try to relax your dog with appeasing activities (scent games, chewing activities).
2. Greeting: Approach the veterinarian from the side, curved or at an angle (social interaction). It is fundamental to take care of proxemics and postures.

### AFTER THE CONSULTATION

Be aware that the consultation and the travel to and from the clinic may have been stressful experiences for your dog. Please consider it when returning home

