

Finding a Good Veterinarian

Congratulations on your new family member! At Life is Better Rescue we strive to give each of our rescue animals the opportunity for a successful future through rescue, adoption, and education. We realize that choosing a compassionate and ethical veterinarian for your new family member can be a daunting task.

Whether you're a seasoned animal lover or just starting out with your new life-long friend, finding the right veterinarian can support and enhance the well being of your new companion.

In the absence of experience, it is important to educate yourself when choosing a veterinarian by taking an active part in the health care of your new family member. There are many resources available via books and the Internet to help you become an informed partner with your vet.



Below is a checklist of suggested things to consider:

- Does your vet explain in non-technical words what is going on with your pet, what available treatments there are, and what the future life of your pet will be with each option provided?
- Does the veterinarian patiently answer any and all questions regarding your pet and make sure that you understand each suggested treatment plan?
- Does your vet list options for treatment starting with the most conservative and least traumatic to your pet?
- Is your veterinarian open about the consequences of any suggested treatment plan and specific about the effect it may have on your family member's quality of life?
- Can your veterinarian explain clearly why it would be necessary to skip from a conservative less traumatic treatment plan to a potentially more radical treatment plan?

If you're shopping for a vet consider these additional suggestions:

- Do you have a friend that is very pleased with their veterinarian? If so what do they like?
- Does the new vet display concern for your animal?
- Is the new vet willing to listen, answer all your questions and communicate easily to you?
- Is the new vet patient and kind to you and your companion?
- Is the new vet comfortable around animals and have their own pets at home?
- Is your new vet board certified and recognized by other accredited regulatory agencies?
- What are the new vet's hours of business and will there be someone available for emergencies? Will the vet be accessible for questions over the telephone?
- Does the new vet (or any vet for that matter) take in to account your costs?
- And finally, bigger isn't always better. Many storefront veterinary chains are held to corporate standards of performance that may not be in the best interest of your pet. Make sure you are aware of any care practices or policies that your veterinarian may be obligated to perform as an employee of the business.
- This is by no means an exhaustive list, but will hopefully help you pinpoint the right vet for you and your life long companion. Learn to trust your instincts and your inner voice to tell you if the vet you have is the right care provider for your pet.
- Our animals give us so much the least we can do for them is to find the best doctor.