



Please read below for some of the more common question/concerns that people often have about seeing a veterinary behaviorist:

***1. What is the difference between a board certified veterinary behaviorist and a trainer?***

A veterinary behaviorist has been through veterinary school, an internship, and a residency where they studied subjects such as animal behavior, learning theory, psychopharmacology etc. They can take a detailed medical and behavioral history, identify the issues and come up with a treatment plan that is based in science and uses humane methods of treatment. They are also able to determine if medical issues such as pain, endocrine disorders, or neurological disorders may be contributing to your pet's behavioral issues.

Unlike the veterinary specialty of Animal Behavior, Animal Training does not currently require certification from a recognized certifying body, or have an established set of criteria for evaluating or grading the expertise of those who call themselves Animal Trainers. Therefore, using the title of Animal Trainer does not mean an individual is qualified to help you with your pet's specific needs, in fact, experienced trainers often express the need for higher standards and a certifying body.

In addition, when there are underlying neurological pinnings (serotonin imbalances etc...) to the behavioral problem, it is MORE than a training issue and a veterinarian must be involved.

***2. Will my pet be put on medication?***

Not necessarily. Some behavioral issues can absolutely be addressed with a combination of behavior modifications and management strategies. Other behavioral issues are a result of a dysfunction of neurotransmitter systems leading to abnormal arousal states or unhealthy persistent states of anxiety. One of the advantages of working with a veterinary behaviorist is that we can use specialized medications that can help to create lasting behavior change in these situations. If it is determined that your pet might benefit from the use of medication, we will discuss that as part of the assessment. Dr. Levine understands that for some families, medication may not be an option under any circumstance or only as an absolute last resort and she is happy to discuss alternatives to medication (nutritional therapies, alpha stimulation, etc...) as well.

***3. I have already worked with a trainer(s), is it worth coming to see a veterinary behaviorist?***

Yes! In fact many of the patients Dr. Levine sees have worked with several trainers in the past or are currently working with a trainer.



**Animal Emergency**  
**& referral associates**

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**ANIMAL EYE CENTER OF NJ**

#### *4. Do you offer guarantees?*

Any ethical and knowledgeable person who works with pets and behavioral issues, will NEVER offer a guarantee. We are working with living beings, not products.

#### *5. Do you see cats too?*

Absolutely. We see cats at Animal Emergency and Referral Associates for a variety of issues including house soiling, aggression directed towards people, inter-cat aggression, destructive behavior and compulsive disorders.

#### *6. Do you see other species?*

Yes, we are happy to see birds, rabbits, small pocket pets. Please call us for fees associated with these pets.

#### *7. Do I bring my pet to the appointment?*

Yes, you should bring your pet to the appointment. If you have any concerns about your ability to transport your pet safely, please touch base with us to discuss your concerns.

#### *8. What is your cancellation policy?*

In order for us to be able to help another client that may be waiting, we ask for 72 hour notice for all cancellations. Cancellation less than 72 hours from the appointment will require us to charge your credit card 50% of the scheduled appointment fee.