What to Bring to Your Vet Visit

A worksheet for families and caregivers

Bring this page, your dog's medication list, and any existing safe footage. Describe what you observed without needing to diagnose it.

Dog name, age, and date

What happens, and toward whom or what? Include frequency, intensity, and any change.

When did it begin? What changed around then: health, home, routine, food, people, or pets?

What happens just before and just after? Include location, proximity, handling, and escape routes.

Current medications, supplements, doses, and recent changes

Bite or injury history: who or what was injured, when, and what care was needed?

Who may be exposed, and what separation or management is currently in place?

Health changes to mention: appetite or thirst / stomach upset / sleep / stiffness or limping / stairs or furniture / sensitivity to touch / hearing or vision / skin, ears, or itching / house-soiling.

Ask your vet: Could pain or illness contribute? What examination or tests are appropriate? What handling plan should we use for the visit? Would referral to a veterinary behaviorist help?

Video is optional. Use only existing footage or footage you can obtain without increasing risk. Do not provoke or recreate behavior. Contact the clinic before bringing a dog with a bite or handling concern. For injury or immediate danger, seek appropriate medical, veterinary, or emergency help.

[1] Merck Veterinary Manual Behavior Problems of Dogs
[2] AVSAB Humane Dog Training position statement and current clarification