

Healthy Pets Healthy Families Coalition
School Based Educational Presentation
Title: Visiting the Veterinarian with your Pet
Grade Level : Grade 3-5

Demonstration – items to gather before talk:

- Pens (pretend they are syringes)
- Combs and brushes
- Stuffed animals (dog, cat, horse)
- Options: Children’s doctor set with stethoscope, magnifying glass to look for bugs

Speaker Notes:

Slide 1: Title of talk: “Visiting the Veterinarian with your Pet: What happens when your pet goes to the vet?”

Slide 2: Who has a pet at home? - Raise your hand if you have a pet.

How many of you have dogs? - Raise your hand if you have a dog.

How many of you have cats? - Raise your hand if you have a cat.

Slide 3: What other pets do people have besides a dog or cat?

Go through naming/identifying each type of animal out loud.

Does anyone have a bird? What is your bird’s name?

Does anyone have a snake? What is your snake’s name? Etc.

Slide 4: Some people may not have pets for various reasons.

Can you think of reasons why people might not be able to have a pet at home?

Go through identifying each reason listed and validate/discuss with group

Slide 5: Why do we have pets? What are reasons families might get a dog or cat?

Go through identifying each reason listed and validate/discuss with group

Slide 6: What does a pet need to stay healthy?

Go through identifying each item listed and discuss with group what each item entails

Training: Dogs should be taught basic commands, like sit, stay, come, leave it, etc.

These commands should be practiced everyday with your dog.

Some people even train their cats or birds to know these commands.

What is one type of pet that might not be easy to train? – fish, but some people still try

Exercise: Just like us, pets need exercise or to play every day.

A dog should be walked and played with everyday.

A cat, birds, snakes, rabbits, rodents should all be played with every day.

Grooming: Pets with hair or fur need to be brushed every day. Just like with people, pet's fur can get tangled and can hurt them. That is why we need to brush their hair or fur.

They also need to be washed regularly.

Pets like birds or snakes may have other special grooming requirements. Ask your veterinarian for recommendations if you have one of these pets.

Food & water: All pets need access to clean water and healthy food every day, just like you.

Love & attention: Most pets also love to be cuddled or be rubbed every day.

Slide 7: Besides what we already talked about, what else does your pet need to stay healthy?

Pets need to be checked by their vet every year.

Slide 8: What happens when you visit the doctor?

To make sure you are healthy, the doctor checks your weight, height, temperature, eyes, ears, mouth, skin, and tummy.

The doctor also listens to your heart and lungs to make sure they are healthy.

Veterinarians check the same things for your pet. They will check your pet's eyes, ears, skin, heart, lungs, and belly to make sure they are healthy.

Slide 9: How do you feel when you go to the Doctor's office?

Are you scared or nervous when you first visit the doctor?

Animals can feel the same way.

Imagine what it must be like for your pet going to a strange place and they don't know what is happening to them.

Even though your pet might be scared like you, it is still very important for them to visit the doctor every year to stay healthy.

Slide 10: What else does a veterinarian do to help your pet stay healthy?

They might give them shots to prevent them from getting sick.

They also might do surgery on them, so they can't have any babies.

Sometimes the vet will also check your pet's blood to make sure everything is working ok.

Slide 11: Is there anything else that a vet might check with your pet to make sure they are healthy?

The vet will check for bugs on the inside and outside of your pet.

They will check your pet's skin for bugs like fleas and ticks.

A vet may also check your pet's poop to make sure they don't have any worms on the inside.

The man on the slide is looking at a dog's poop under the microscope and found a worm egg.

If they find any bugs on the inside or outside of your pet, there is medication the vet would give your pet. All the bugs are easy to treat. So don't worry if the vet finds something in your pet.

Slide 12: On this slide, the man is checking the dog's skin for fleas. He uses the comb to try to find bugs on the outside of the dog.

Slide 13: Activity – Practice being a veterinarian

Students can practice examining stuffed animals. They can check the eyes, ears, mouth, nose, paws, belly, and tail. They can also use a pet to pretend to give a shot to the stuffed animal on the legs or between the shoulders. They can practice grooming the pet with a comb to see if they see any bugs. They can also use the comb to make sure the hair isn't tangled.

Slide 14: What are things you can do at home to help keep your pet healthy?

You can help your parents check when your pet last went to the vet.

Is your pet due for any vaccines/shots or flea medicine?

You can also help your parents pick up your pet's poop every day.

You can also help your parents by walking or playing with your pet and giving them fresh water and food every day.

Just remember to leave a sleeping animal alone. Don't touch them or wake them when they are sleeping.

Slide 15: Your homework assignment is to work with your parents to figure out the last time your pet went to the vet. Is your pet due for any shots?

If your pet hasn't been to the vet in over a year, it's time to take them in.

Slide 16: Questions?

Raise your hand if you have a question about what we learned today.