



We thank you for choosing our practice to provide the best care for your pet!

Have we seen your cat lately?

Cats really do rule. Felines outnumber their canine counterparts by 10 million when it comes to companion animals, making them the number one pet in the U.S. With such a lead in the numbers it is alarming to note that cats are much less likely to receive veterinary care than dogs. In fact, a recent survey of pet owners revealed that dogs are almost three times more likely to visit the veterinarian than cats. It cannot be said that cat owners love their animals any less than dog owners, so why the disparity? Here are a few common myths and reasons given by owners:

❖ Cats that do not act sick do not need veterinary care.

Cats tend to be more private than dogs but that does not mean they do not suffer from as many illnesses and diseases. Subtle changes in grooming behaviors, vocalization, food and water consumption and activity level may be warning signs of something more serious. Cats sleep a lot, but if you are familiar with your cat's napping patterns and socializations you are more likely to differentiate between normal behavior and lethargy.

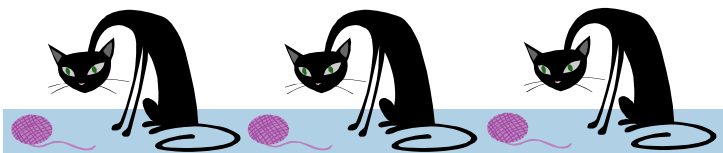
❖ Indoor cats are not as susceptible to health problems as cats and dogs that spend time outdoors.

Common illnesses in cats such as kidney, thyroid and dental disease affect all cats the same. Studies have shown that more than one quarter of cats diagnosed with heartworm disease were classified by their owners as strictly indoors. While staying inside certainly decreases your cat's risk of exposure to unknown animals, the life of an indoor cat can often lead to obesity, putting these cats at a higher risk for diabetes and arthritis.

❖ Cats hate the vet and a trip to the clinic can be stressful.

This can be true but there are ways to ease the stress of a vet visit. Choose a carrier that is easy to get your cat in and out of such as a top loading carrier where the top half can be disconnected from the bottom half. At home leave the carrier in a quiet, comfortable place and try feeding and playing with your cat in and around the carrier. Line the bottom of the carrier with a towel or shirt that smells like you and try using a pheromone spray such as Feliway to help ease stress.

OVVH sees cat appointments on a different floor than dogs, minimizing noise and strange smells that may be distressful to cats. Cats may never love the vet but we hope we can make their visit as easy and stress-free as possible.



Senior Wellness

Every February OVVH celebrates senior pets by offering a great deal on health screenings for dogs and cats over seven years old. As pets age diseases become more common but subtle changes in your pet's appetite, water intake or activity level may go unnoticed by even the most watchful owners. What many people disregard as signs of "old age" can actually be symptoms of an underlying disease process that, if caught early enough, can be treated or even reversed. Our goal is to find problems that may be subtly affecting your pet or that may cause problems in the future and address them early on. Our February wellness package includes a thorough physical examination, blood work, urinalysis, blood pressure check, glaucoma screen and x-rays at a greatly discounted rate. If your pet's health screen does not turn up any issues, that is great! You can rest easy knowing your senior pet is happy and healthy and under the best care possible.



Our Hours

Don't forget OVVH opens early and closes late during the week and offers Saturday and Sunday hours for your convenience. We also offer same-day appointments in most cases. If you cannot make it in for an office visit during the day you can drop your pet off for an exam at no extra charge.

Monday-Friday 7:30am – 8:00pm

Saturday 9:00am – 2:00pm

Sunday 10:00am – 2:00pm

Meet the Staff

At OVVH we pride ourselves in our special care of hospitalized patients. Whether your pet has been admitted for an exam or is staying with us for surgery or medical treatment our staff will treat your pet like one of our own. Alejandra, Megan and Rachel are our most experienced team members and one of them will be assigned to your pets during their stay here and will assist the doctors in all aspects of their care. From start to finish, they are with your pets. This means your animals will be taken care of by someone who is familiar with them and knows the ins and outs of their cases. We do a very small number of surgeries and procedures each day so that we can provide the best care for your pets and give them the personalized attention they deserve.



Megan Rachel Alejandra

Holiday Thank You

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all of our clients who sent holiday cards and goodies to the clinic. It is wonderful to know we are appreciated and that you are thinking of us during the holiday season.

We wish all of our clients and patients a happy and healthy 2012!



Online Store Change

If you have visited our online store recently you may have noticed some changes. The site is now faster, easier to view and easier to search. In addition to having all the items you are used to seeing, the online store is now offering Purina diets. Do you often find yourself running out of your pet's food and scrambling to get a new supply in time? You can now set up automated ordering and have your pet's food automatically shipped to you. Best of all, shipping for dietary items is free when you set up automated ordering. All other orders over \$40 (not including diets) ship at no charge. To visit our online store click the green box on our homepage that says "Shop Our Online Store" or go to ovvhpets.vetsfirstchoice.com.

Pet Friendly Events



Puppy Bowl VIII **February 5, 6:30pm** **Animal Planet**

Whether you are a huge football fan or just watch the Super Bowl for the commercials, make sure to tune into Animal Planet's eighth annual Puppy Bowl on football's biggest day. There are no winners or losers, just lots of adorable puppies.

St. Patrick's Celebration & Parade **Saturday, March 3, 10:30am-1:30pm** **Old Town Alexandria**

Festivities include a Classic Car Show and Fun Dog Show (featuring awards for dog with best tail wag and dog and owner with most similar hair), culminating with a parade through Old Town.

<http://www.ballyshaners.org/>

Super Pet Expo **March 16-18 (Fri: 4-9pm, Sat: 10am-7pm, Sun: 10am-5pm)** **Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly, VA**

Have your pet's picture taken by a professional pet photographer, enjoy the comedy dog thrill show or stop by and visit with an animal talent agent to see if your animal can catch a big break. In addition to countless fun activities for you and your pet there will be animals up for adoption and over 150 local and national exhibitors to shop at.

<http://www.superpetexpo.com/show.html?show.id=2136>