

**BEHAVIOR
PROBLEMS
ARE A LEADING
REASON
WHY PEOPLE GIVE
UP THEIR PETS**

We help pets stay with their families.

COMMON BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS IN COMPANION ANIMALS INCLUDE:

Dogs: aggression, barking, destructiveness, fear reactions, house soiling, phobias, and separation anxiety

Cats: urine marking, inappropriate elimination, aggression, over-grooming, and scratching

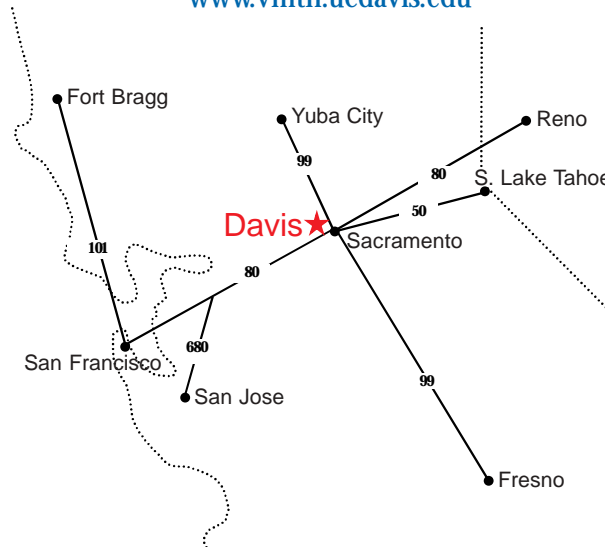
Birds: aggression, anxiety, fear, and feather picking

Horses: aggression, fear, and repetitive behaviors

Pocket Pets & Exotics: husbandry

Rabbits: aggression, house training, and husbandry

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Appointment information and detailed directions may be obtained by calling the phone number or visiting the web site above.



School of Veterinary Medicine



BEHAVIOR SERVICE
Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital
Davis, California



What is the Behavior Service at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine?

The mission of the Behavior Service, and the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, as a whole is three fold: educate veterinary students and residents (post-graduate veterinarians); provide high quality veterinary care; and discover, apply, and disseminate new knowledge.

The Behavior Service includes board-certified specialists in veterinary behavior who oversee the nation's largest veterinary behavior program. Behavior consultations are conducted by highly qualified, experienced veterinarians with a sincere interest in maintaining the human-animal bond.

Our Approach to Clinical Animal Behavior

We derive our humane behavior modification techniques from the field of applied animal behavior where veterinary and behavioral science professionals specialize in applying scientific principles, learned from the study of domestic and wild animal behavior, learning theory, and counseling, to companion animals. In the clinic, we use these techniques to help owners solve their pets' behavior problems. Medication, which only veterinarians can prescribe, is occasionally used in conjunction with behavior modification therapy. Veterinarians can also diagnose medical conditions that can affect a pet's behavior.

What Typically Happens During a Behavior Consultation?

The first step for the client is scheduling an appointment with the Behavior Service. We give our clients a great deal of information, and therefore, we recommend that everyone in the family be included in the initial consultation.

To begin, we take a detailed history of the pet's behavior problem. The history may be obtained by a veterinary student or a clinician. The clinician will then evaluate the pet and its problems. At that point, a treatment plan is developed, tailored to the pet's problem and the family's lifestyle. We design flexible treatment plans, so that if one method does not work out well for a family, other methods are available.

We explain and often demonstrate procedures and techniques prescribed during the consultation, as well as provide a printout of personalized instructions. The majority of follow-up care is conducted over the telephone. As it is the pet owner who carries out the recommended treatment plan at home, we rely on the client to call us for clarification or support following the consultation. Only the people living with the pet have the power to change the animal's behavior, but we are willing to help them every step of the way. *Our goal is to help clients understand their pets' behavior as they strive to reach the goals they have for their animals.*

We recommend progress check appointments for pets that have severe or complicated diagnoses. The success of a treatment plan is dependent upon how our recommendations are carried out by the pet's family. We teach owners how to change and manage their pet's behavior, and in most cases, we help people effectively improve their animal's behavior problem.

Please note: Although we discuss cases with veterinarians by telephone, we do not conduct telephone behavior consultations with owners. We must have an established doctor-patient-client relationship before we treat an animal.



The Role of the Primary Care Veterinarian

Before a behavior consultation, all pets should have a complete physical examination, including blood and urine testing, done by their primary care veterinarian. Because it is the primary care veterinarian who will assist the owner in the lifelong care of the animal, we encourage the involvement of that veterinarian in the implementation of our treatment plan. We provide a detailed referral letter and telephone call to the primary care veterinarian following the behavior consultation.

