

VCA Advanced Veterinary Care Center

Specialty & Emergency

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New Client Welcome Form

Dear New Client,

Thank you for choosing the Dermatology service at VCA Advanced Veterinary Care Center for your pet's dermatological needs! We are committed to providing both you and your pet with the best care possible. To prepare for your pet's upcoming appointment please note the following:

Preparing yourself for the appointment

- Please request that all referral information, records, and lab tests be emailed (avccdermdept@vca.com) or faxed (310-542-8098) to our hospital at least 24 hours before your pet's appointment.
- Please arrive to your appointment early to complete intake forms (Dermatology questionnaire). Alternatively, you can complete the form below BEFORE you arrive and bring it with you to the appointment.

Preparing your pet for the appointment

- Please do not bathe your pet within 3 days before the appointment so your dermatologist can completely evaluate your pet. Do not clean ears or instill ear medications the day before the appointment.
- Please continue all other medications as previously prescribed by your primary care veterinarian.
- Please make sure your pet is fasted after midnight the night before your exam (unless your pet is diabetic) in case special testing is needed (skin testing, biopsy etc). Water can be offered until the appointment time.

What to expect during the appointment

- In general, you should expect to spend about 60 minutes at the clinic for your pet's initial consultation. Recheck/follow-up evaluations tend to be shorter in length (about 30 minutes) unless special testing is needed.
- Generally speaking, excluding medications to go home, the initial visit **averages about \$300-350**. This includes a full dermatological examination and some tests such as skin/ear cytologies and/or scrapings to identify microorganisms and infection. **Other advanced testing such as serum or skin allergy testing, skin cultures/sensitivity, bloodwork, skin biopsies, etc. are additional and not included in the above estimate of costs.** The prices of medications can vary greatly depending on the diagnosis and the size of the pet.
- Recheck visits are almost always necessary to complete your pet's workup. These appointments are less than initial appointments, usually **average about \$180-\$230** plus the cost of medications.

