

Dr. Patrick Melese DVM, Dip ACVB (Behavior)
Veterinary Behavior Consultants

BEHAVIOR PATIENT REFERRAL



This will introduce my client: _____
and patient named: _____
Referred by Dr.: _____
Practice: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
Phone Number: _____ Date: _____
E-mail: _____ Fax number: _____

Doctor: Please give a brief history of the case you are referring including duration of problem, relevant signs observed, observations, laboratory results, radiographic results, significant treatments received, diet, etc.

Suggestions and comments (if any) by Referring Veterinarian:

Dr. Melese is seeing cases by appointment at his private practice in San Diego and a few by housecall.

Please have client go to website then call the behavior office for an appointment: **Tel: (858) 259-6115**

After Dr. Melese sees your case we will send (e-mail or fax) letter summarizing findings & plans.

Please check one option below (default will be option 1 if no checks)

- 1. **The e-mail will be sufficient; I will call Dr. Melese if I have any further questions:**
- 2. **Please also have Dr. Melese call me after he sees this referred case:**

Please feel free to call to discuss your case before or after the behavioral specialty appointment.

Thank you allowing me to help your client and patient with specialty behavioral services.

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GUIDELINES FOR REFERRAL OF DOG AND CAT BEHAVIOR CASES

{Please note referral telephone number: 858-259-6115}

I. **Evaluate** for possible behavior problem **including** but not limited to:

- ❖ **Aggressive behavior** (including "just growling"),
- ❖ **Anxiety/phobias/excessively fearful, etc.**
- ❖ **Destructive** behavior in cats and dogs (chewing/scratching/digging, etc.),
- ❖ **Elimination** disorders (housebreaking mistakes, litterbox problems),
- ❖ **Feeding** disorders (e.g. pica, coprophagy),
- ❖ **Excessive vocalization**, barking & **Stereotypic/Compulsive** disorders

II. **Counsel clients** on availability of a behavioral referral and that professional specialty fees are charged as with other specialty practices. Emphasize we typically have good success for clients who are motivated to solve the problem but there are seldom "quick fixes." Behavior problem diagnosis, treatment and prognosis will be part of consultation so **we do not provide no-charge "quick ideas" for clients over the phone** just as we do not diagnose and recommend medical and surgical treatment without seeing the patient and evaluating the problem with an office call (that would also be against practice act). Behavior services are **by appointment only** but *clients can now view most all the intake forms, FAQs and other information prior to booking an appointment on our website: www.sdvetbehavior.com*. Office calls are initiated with an extended initial visit (time varies but average initial visit is 3 hrs) with follow-up consults scheduled as needed to accomplish and follow the treatment plan. **It goes without saying that prescription drugs cannot be recommended or prescribed without a behavior work-up of the patient, and the prescribing clinician having a current Dr./owner/patient relationship.**

SERVICE FEE LIST

July 2018 (fees subject to change without notice see website for latest pricing)

OFFICE CALLS:¹ \$190 /hour- with 1.5 hr. minimum ("mini" @ \$350)
(typically 3 hrs initial visit but occasionally longer)

Rechecks (within 1-12 wks.) \$190 and are typically 45-50 minutes routinely.

HOUSE CALLS: \$250/hour; (\$750 consult minimum).
(average 3 hrs initial visit) + travel fees apply

PHONE CONSULTS: 1st 15 min: \$110 (very brief-rarely this short !)
(only for follow-up appts.) up to 30 min: \$165 ("short")
30-55 min \$190 (routine)

• Have clients **go to our web site** then call **858-259-6115** where VBC staff will schedule them to see a behavioral clinician. *If possible, main people involved with pet should be available at time of consultation. **Please e-mail, fax (858-259-0013), or copy & send with owner any RELEVANT medical/drug history/records-summarize if possible (see patient referral form).***

• Referral letters summarizing findings and treatment plan are routinely sent after the initial appointment and 1st recheck. *Please note on referral form if you would also like to be called.*

¹ Clinic hours Monday through Thursday 9-5 but limited after-hours appointments can sometimes be made for **additional** fees.
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