

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

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 ("teamwork with pet parent") 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 examining the patient and working up the problem during an appointment (that would also be against practice act). *Clients can access all the intake forms, fees, FAQs and other information prior to booking an appointment on our website: www.sdvvetbehavior.com.* New patients begin with an extended initial telemedicine appointment/"curbside exam" (time varies but initial visit is typically 2.5-3+ 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 legal VCPR established "in person" by actually seeing the patient/client.**

SERVICE FEE LIST

Jan 2025 (fees subject to change without notice see website for latest pricing)

Telemed/office CALLS:¹	\$990 up to 3 hrs. but many can be longer & prorated
Additional involved pet	\$200
Rechecks (within 1-12 wks.)	\$260 and are typically 40-45 minutes routinely.
HOUSE CALLS (or ER requests):	\$450/hour; (\$1,350 minimum) + travel fees
PHONE Recheck CONSULTS:	up to 30 min: \$220 ("short")
(<u>Only</u> for follow-up appnts.)	30-50 min \$260 (routine- most cases need this)

- Please have clients **go to our web site**, download, complete & e-mail back 6-page signed client intake forms then contact our office (ideally via e-mail during pandemic) where VBC staff will have them make their \$300 non-refundable scheduling fee/deposit (we have too much demand to hold a 3-hr slot for them without firm \$ commitment) then schedule them to see a behavioral clinician. **Please e-mail (preferred) or, fax (858-259-0013) any RELEVANT medical/drug history/records-summarize if possible (see patient referral form).**
- Visit summary report is routinely sent by e-mail after the initial appointment.

¹ Clinic hours Monday through Wednesday 9-5 but limited after-hours appointments (ER requests) can sometimes be made for **additional** fees.

Veterinary Behavior Consultants
San Diego, CA

Tel: 858-259-6115 FAX: 858-259-0013 E-mail: info@sdvetbehavior.com Web: sdvetbehavior.com

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BEHAVIOR PATIENT REFERRAL



This will introduce my client: _____	
& patient named/pet type: _____ / _____	
Referred by Dr.: _____	
Practice: _____	
Address: _____	
City: _____	
Practice Phone: _____	Date: _____
Practice E-mail: _____	Fax: _____

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 (including any behavioral medication dosing details), diet, etc.

Suggestions and comments (if any) by Referring Veterinarian:

Although our specialist clinician has mainly been seeing cases by TELEMEDICINE appointments in San Diego during PANDEMIC (with “curbside exam” as legally required at initial appointment and at least yearly), we have again started to offer limited clinic appointments at our resident’s Bay Park practice.

Please have client go to website then contact behavior office for an appointment (info@sdvetbehavior.com). Note that we will **not** contact your client as they must reach out to us in order to make an appointment.

After a behavior clinician sees your case, we will e-mail a report 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 peer to peer if I have any further questions:**
- 2. **Please also have clinician call me after this referred case is seen:**

Please feel free to call & briefly discuss your case before or after the specialty appointment if needed.

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