

Welcome to Commonwealth Veterinary Hospital! We look forward to meeting you and your furry family members!

Below you'll find a few tips to make your first visit with us as smooth and easy as possible. Parking: We are located at the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue and Woodbine Street. Street parking is available on Woodbine St, and there is no fee for parking. If you need any assistance getting your pet into our building, please call our front desk at 617-332-7030 when you arrive and let us know you are in need of a hand. We can help carry or walk your animals inside as needed.

If you have difficulty walking up the flight of stairs to our building, please call the hospital to let us know that you've arrived and will need to park in our driveway. We'll have a staff member come out to escort you through the hospital's back entrance. We ask that you please always call to be escorted through our back entrance, as this is the treatment area of our hospital and it's important that we make sure it is safe for you and your pet to walk through.

What to expect at your first visit:

Your first visit to our hospital begins at our front desk, where one of our friendly staff members will greet you and begin checking you in for your appointment. We will have received your pet's medical records virtually, but if there are any documents you weren't able to send, please be sure to bring them to your first visit. Our team will make copies of these documents and return the originals to you at this time. We will have a new patient agreement form for you to sign- please confirm all the information is correct and return it to our team once you've signed off. When the medical team is ready to get your pet's visit started, we will take you and your pet to one of our exam rooms, where one of our skilled veterinary technicians will take some vital information and then introduce you to your pet's veterinarian!

What to bring with you to your first appointment:

- Your pet's medical records.

These will include vaccination history, doctor's written medical notes, and any labwork or x-rays that have been performed by your pet's previous veterinarian. It is best to have records sent to us in advance- ask your previous veterinary hospital to fax them to us at 617-244-1697, or email them to us at [frontdesk@commonwealthvet.com](mailto:frontdesk@commonwealthvet.com).

If you're unsure of your pet's medical history or are unable to get records from your previous vet, please let us know everything you can remember about your pet's health and vaccine history. Our veterinarians will work with whatever information you're able to obtain for them, but the more information we have, the better we are able to treat your pet!

If you have a new puppy or kitten, please bring any paperwork the breeder or shelter has given you about your new companion's health and vaccine history. This information is usually limited because of your pet's young age, but is crucial for us to have as we get to know your new canine or feline companion.

- **Stool sample:** If you're coming to us for a routine wellness exam or a first visit with a new puppy or kitten, we recommend that you bring a stool sample to your appointment. This stool sample will be sent to our lab to screen for internal parasites, and is requested at least once yearly for adult pets, and twice before the age of 6 months for our puppy and kitten patients. Samples can be up to 24 hours old (must not be frozen or baked in the sun, fresh or refrigerated is best), it is ok if there is litter attached to the sample.

- **Medications:**

Please bring the names of any medications that your pet is currently taking. If your pet takes multiple medications or you're not sure what the name and dose of each medication is, it may be helpful to bring your pet's medications with you to your first appointment.

- **Your Questions and Observations:**

Because your furry family members cannot use words to tell us how they're feeling, they rely on you to convey information to your vet about how they've been doing. If you've recently noticed any changes in your pet's behavior, energy level, appetite, water consumption, weight, or bathroom habits, it's important to make a note of these things and let your veterinarian know during your visit. If you have any specific questions you want answered, it's also a good idea to write those down so we can be sure to cover them during your appointment! If you have any questions or concerns prior to your appointment, please don't hesitate to reach out by phone or email. We're always happy to help!