

Questions to Help Prepare for a Doctor-to-Doctor Consultation

General Information for All Patients

- **Signalment**
- **Current medications**
(Include daily, situational, behavioral and non-behavioral medications, as well as supplements)
- **Previous behavioral medication or supplement trials**
(Name, dose, duration given, time given before an event, observed outcome)
- **Current physical and behavior diagnoses and differential diagnoses**
- **Abnormal physical exam findings**
- **Diagnostic results from the past year**
(Lab work, imaging, urinalysis, thyroid testing, etc.)
- **Any relevant advanced diagnostic imaging or tests prior** (MRI, CT, abdominal ultrasound, GI-specific blood or fecal panels)

Behavior History

- When the problem first started, how has it changed over time
- Describe the problematic behavior or incident. Include details about the pet's body language during the event (ears, tail, posture, etc.)

Household environment

- Other pets in the home- age, neuter status, species, breed, relationship/dynamics with patient
- People in the home and any relevant relationship dynamics

Interventions trialed

- List all attempts to manage or treat the behavior
(e.g., litter box changes, tools, use of pheromones, environmental modifications)

Outcome-oriented questions:

- What is their #1 goal with behavior treatment? Be specific (i.e. reduce barking at dogs on walks)

- Are they considering rehoming? Euthanasia?

Questions to screen for physical illness that could affect behavior

- How many times does the pet defecate per day?
 - What is the consistency of the stool (use an objective assessment like the Purina fecal scoring system).
 - Is there residue left on the ground after picking up stool?
 - Any changes in mobility? (Jumping, exercise tolerance)
 - Any changes in thirst/urination/hunger?
 - Any changes or abnormalities in gait or posture? (Sitting frog legged or with one leg out, uneven toenail wear, recent lameness, touch sensitivity)
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Dog-Specific Questions

Aggressive behavior

- Identify the target (familiar person, visitor, animal, etc.)
- Have they bitten? Did they break skin? How many incidents?
- Describe any interactions that occurred 1–2 minutes prior to the aggressive incident with the victim/target.
- When were early warning signs first observed (growling, showing teeth, barking)?

Interventions trialed

- Behavioral, environmental, or pharmacological interventions
- Response to each intervention

Training history

- Describe the training approach used
 - (i.e. positive reinforcement vs. aversive tools used (E collar, stim collar, shock collar, prong collar, choke chain))
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Cat-Specific Questions

Elimination problems:

- Number, size, and placement of litter boxes in the home. Feel free to send a video.
 - Scooping frequency
 - Frequency of dumping/cleaning boxes
 - Covered or uncovered boxes?
 - Litter type
 - Location of elimination events
 - For urination outside the box:
 - Is it on horizontal or vertical surfaces?
 - Is the volume small or large?
 - Does the cat lift their tail and back up to a vertical surface?
 - For defecation outside the box, ideally capture elimination behavior on video
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