

Stahlrosenhof Kennels

Puppy Information: How to Locate a Good Veterinarian

Typically when people begin to look for a vet, they start with ones closest to them. There are also a number of other factors that need to be considered besides location. Then again, you do not want one so far away that you can't get to them in an emergency.

You need to find a vet that is willing to work with you and address your concerns about your dog. Many vets have set protocols and standards which they rarely deviate from, and this could cause problems in getting your vet to offer other available treatments or procedures.

A vet should be willing to refer you to someone else if you have a problem they are not used to seeing or are uncomfortable with. Ask them who they use when they have referrals for surgeries and special medical cases. If there is a teaching hospital near you, often referrals are sent there.

Know your vet's emergency procedures and if they take their own after hours cases or if they send them to an "after hours emergency clinic". If they refer emergencies, make sure you know where the alternative clinic is and their hours.

If they are so far away that you can't get there in a reasonable amount of time, consider looking for a closer vet that takes their own after hours emergencies.

Find out what procedures a vet hospital can perform in-house. Some vets will do their own blood work, urinalysis and other routine tests, while some send these to an outside lab. There is always an added time factor and expense when samples are sent out for analysis. However, if they are done in-house, ask who they are done by and if that person is certified to perform those procedures.

A vet should not have a problem giving you a copy of your dog's medical history and findings upon each visit. If you need to travel, having these available are invaluable to another vet should your dog need to be seen.

They should have an available x-ray machine, and be able to perform extended surgical procedures using gas anesthesia. Find out what other diagnostic capabilities they have as well.

Also ask how willing they are to work with your Mal and if they have any experience with others of this breed. Some vets will hear the word Mal and run the other way. However, if you establish a series of good experiences at first, you should not have any major issues, and your vet will keep all their fingers. If your vet has not worked with Mals, that is ok too. Reassure them that bravery is a good thing. It is, of course, your responsibility as an owner to make sure that your puppy is used to being touched and handled all over. You should easily be able to clean ears, trim nails, check teeth, and manage small cuts or scrapes. This will take some time and patience, but is very important in managing your puppy's health.

You will probably want to visit a couple vet clinics before you bring your puppy home to get an idea of what they are like, how you are treated by the staff, and what their general practices and policies are.

Finally, if you find a vet, and then find that you clash, or your vet is not willing to work with you.... find another one. There are plenty of good ones that will listen and take some time to answer your questions. Remember, you are paying them to do just that. If you need help in locating a vet, we will gladly assist you and make suggestions where we can.