

FINDING THE BEST VET!

Your Vet is the second most important person in your pet's life (after you, of course). But how can you be sure you've picked a good one? Debbye Turner, Veterinary Correspondent to CBS' *The Early Show* has tips about what every great Vet should do for you and your pet:

A GREAT VET WILL:

- 🐾 **Block off plenty of time for you.** "It shouldn't be just a quick, 10-minute, make-sure-everything-is-OK-then-rush-you-out-the-door [exam]," Turner says.
- 🐾 **Explain Everything.** Your Vet should let you know what to expect to see in your pet at its stage of development. He should tell you what he's finding and what it means. And if your Vet finds anything that concerns him, he should let you know why, as well as what the next steps should be.
- 🐾 **Answer all your questions.** A great Vet asks if you have any questions, and then she takes the time to patiently answer anything you're curious about.
- 🐾 **Treat you and your pet compassionately.** Your pet's life is the first priority, particularly in an emergency. But you also want a Vet who treats your pet, and you, with kindness and makes sure you both are as comfortable as possible.
- 🐾 **Make sure your pet is relaxed.** How does your animal react in the Vet's presence? Does he calm down when the Vet puts his hands on him? You want to make sure your pet likes the Vet as much as you do.

HOW TO ASSIST YOUR VET:

- 🐾 **Tell your Vet everything upfront.** You can help ensure the best relationship possible, Turner says. "Inundate the veterinarian with information: how the animal has been behaving; how long he's been behaving like that; and how he's been eating, drinking, urinating and defecating. It's only through correct and thorough information that a veterinarian can do his job."
- 🐾 **Remind your Vet of any problems your animal has had in the past.** "Not all Vets will remember everything. Even if you just say, 'We had a problem with vomiting about two years ago,' that little bit of information could be pivotal in making the correct diagnosis," Turner says.
- 🐾 **Ask questions.** Your Vet can't help you out if she doesn't know what's on your mind.