Veterinary Visit Questions Checklist

Questions worth asking, organised by the kind of appointment you're having

PETSLIKEMINE
ARTHRITIS & MSK SPACE

Read through the section that matches your appointment and pick the handful of questions that matter most. **Two or three good questions beat ten generic ones.** Tick the ones you want to raise, or copy them onto your Pre-Appointment Notes sheet to take with you.

New diagnosis

FIRST CONVERSATION

- [ ] What exactly are we treating?
- [ ] What should I expect to see in the next 2 to 4 weeks?
- [ ] What side effects should I watch for?
- [ ] When should I get in touch if I'm worried?
- [ ] What can I do at home alongside the medication?
- [ ] Which decisions are urgent, and which can wait until I've read up?
- [ ] When is the next appointment?

Routine follow-up

ONGOING REVIEW

- [ ] How is the management going from your perspective?
- [ ] Here's what's changed since last time — are there changes you'd recommend?
- [ ] Is the current medication and dose still appropriate?
- [ ] What should I be watching for over the next 3 to 6 months?
- [ ] Should we be considering anything new?
- [ ] When's the next review, and are any blood tests due?

Something has changed

NEW CONCERN

- [ ] What might be causing this change?
- [ ] What investigations would help us understand?
- [ ] What are the next steps?
- [ ] Could it be a side effect of the current medication?
- [ ] What should I do at home meanwhile?
- [ ] When should I be worried enough to come back urgently?

Specialist or surgery

BIG DECISIONS

- [ ] What are the realistic outcomes of each option?
- [ ] What evidence supports each approach?
- [ ] Are there non-surgical options worth trying first?
- [ ] Should I be considering a second opinion?
- [ ] How will you and my primary vet communicate, and who manages what?
- [ ] What does the recovery involve, and what will it cost including aftercare?

THE QUESTIONS PEOPLE FORGET TO ASK

WHATEVER THE APPOINTMENT

These apply to any visit and are the ones owners most often leave wishing they'd asked. They're always fair to ask.

- [ ] **“What would you do if this were your own pet?”**
- [ ] **“What's the cheapest reasonable approach?”**
- [ ] **“Can we spread this out over time?”**
- [ ] **“What are the options at different price points?”**
- [ ] **“What can wait, and what can't?”**
- [ ] **“Sorry, can I just check I've understood that?”**

How to use. Pick the section that fits your appointment, choose two or three questions, and either tick them here or copy them onto your Pre-Appointment Notes sheet. It's always fine to ask the vet to slow down or explain again — never leave the room confused.

PREPARED QUESTIONS,
BETTER ANSWERS.