

## **“Head Start” Consultations**

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### **What is a “Head Start” Consultation?**

Dr. Meghan Herron provides this problem-prevention-focused consultation to help pet owners set their new additions up for success. This consultation is intended to help owners of puppies and kittens, but is also applicable to pet owners who have recently adopted or rescued an adult dog or cat.

### **Who benefits from a “Head Start” Consultation?**

Essentially everyone interacting with your pet will benefit from this consultation as your pet will learn how to interact with people and animals safely and appropriately. Your pet will receive a plan for success that will encourage him/her to blossom into an emotionally secure and obedient pet. Specifically:

#### **Puppy** consultations will cover:

- Normal canine development
- Housetraining
- Socialization
- Crate training
- Prevention and management of “mouthy” behaviors
- Basic manners – How to train and when to treat
- Preparation for grooming and body care
- Appropriate play behaviors and energy outlets
- Preparation for car travel and vet visits

#### **Kitten** consultations will cover:

- Normal feline development
- Socialization
- Litter box training and maintenance
- Environmental enrichment

- Preparation for grooming and body care
- Appropriate play behaviors and energy outlets
- Preparation for car travel and vet visits
- Training exercises for function and fun

**Recently Adopted/Rescued Dog and Cat** consultations will cover:

This consultation applies to dogs and cats of any age that have been recently adopted or rescued from a certified shelter, Humane Society, or rescue organization. Consultation for adopted pets will be catered to the individual and will cover topics that are appropriate, such as:

- What it means to be a rescued or re-homed pet
- Creating and nurturing an appropriate human-animal bond with your pet and all members of your family
- Teaching your pet to be comfortable being home alone and prevent separation anxiety
- Prevention of destructive behaviors
- Providing an enriched environment for a rescued pet
- Helping the shy or fearful pet adjust

**Scheduling a “Head Start” appointment:**

You can schedule an appointment by calling the client line at 614-292-3551. Afternoon, Evening, and Saturday appointment hours are available to accommodate most schedules. Appointments are 1 hour in length. Please plan to arrive 15 minutes early for registration.

“Head Start” Consultation fees:

\$95 for a 1-hour appointment (includes hospital administrative fees)

Follow-up is typically not necessary, but if after your consultation you are interested in continued contact with Dr. Herron, 3 months of unlimited email or phone follow-up can be purchased for \$110.

**Additional costs** may include training aids such as collars, harnesses, clickers, and books, supplied by our pharmacy, if needed. These fees will be discussed before any services are performed or items are ordered for your pet.

**A final note:** The “Head Start” Consultation is intended as a problem-prevention session and not designed to treat known behavior problems. If a potentially serious behavior problem is discovered during your consultation, Dr. Herron may recommend a follow-up appointment so that your pet’s problems can be addressed and managed more thoroughly. If your recently adopted pet is displaying aggression problems Dr. Herron advises you to contact your adoption agency and/or set up a regular [Behavior Problem Appointment](#).