

Stempy's Checklist

~ CHOOSING A VETERINARIAN ~ VETERINARIAN CHECKLIST ~

1	PROSPECTIVE VETERINARIAN / FACILITY :													
REFERRED BY :														
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Friend / Neighbor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Breeder	<input type="checkbox"/>	Breed Club	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rescue	<input type="checkbox"/>	Groomer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Phone Book	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drive By
BACKGROUND :														
3	State Board Complaint Search Done?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Comments:							
4	Name Search - Internet Search Engine?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Comments:							
COMPLIANCE :														
5	Is vet's license posted & easy to be seen?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Comments:							
6	Is vet's license current?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Comments:							
7	"Where to file complaints" - sign posted?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Comments:							
EXPERIENCE / EDUCATION :														
8	Date of original issue on vet's license :				Comments:									
9	What college did veterinarian attend?				Comments:									
10	Are the vet techs licensed?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Comments:							
11	Is vet experienced w/ your breed/pet type?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Comments:							
12	Does the vet / clinic have any professional affiliations?				Comments:									
13	Is vet certified in any specialty area?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Comments:							
OFFICE HOURS, APPOINTMENTS, EMERGENCIES :														
14	What are the vet's regular office hours?				Comments:									
15	Are appointments required?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Comments:							
16	If more than one vet, can you request an appt. for a specific vet?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Comments:							
17	How are emergency calls handled after hours?				Comments:									
18	Does this vet provide emergency after hours care?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Referral?							
19	If your pet is kept overnight, are they unattended? If no, who is on duty?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Comments:							
PRACTICE ISSUES :														
20	Who covers the practice when the Dr. is unavailable?				Comments:									
21	Does the vet utilize <u>written</u> consent forms?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Comments:							
22	Does the vet keep thorough records that you can easily purchase copies of?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Comments:							
23	Will the Dr. answer questions over the phone?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Comments:							
24	Does this vet recommend annual vaccinations?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Comments:							
25	Will the vet prescribe medication & allow you to fill it elsewhere?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Comments:							
26	Who gives the shots & takes the x-rays?				Comments:									
27	Are x-rays, ultrasounds, bloodwork, & other diagnostics done in-house or referred to a specialist?				Comments:									
28	Which more serious procedures / surgeries are referred to specialists, & which are handled in-house?				Comments:									
29	Is pet EVER attended to by anyone other than a vet or licensed vet tech?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Comments:							
30	Are the vet's family members a part of the vet's practice?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Comments:							
FEES & PAYMENT METHODS :														
31	What are the fees for routine exam & vaccinations?				X-ray of possible hip fracture?				Heartworm treatment?					
32	Are there discounts for Senior Citizens or multi-pet households?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Comments:							
33	Is full payment expected on the day of the visit?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Comments:							
34	Will the vet/clinic offer a payment plan?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Comments:							
35	What types of payment are accepted?				Comments:									
TOUR OF FACILITY :														
36	Is lobby / waiting room clean and organized?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Comments:							
37	Is operating & recovery area clean & sanitized?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Comments:							
38	Is exam room & kennel area clean & sanitized?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Comments:							
39	Is outdoor potty / exercise area safe & secure?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Comments:							
40	Is staff clean, friendly, helpful, & professional?		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Comments:							

NOTES / OTHER QUESTIONS :

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stempy.net

texasvetboardwatch.info

vetsfromhell.net

texasveterinaryrecords.com

STEMPY'S CHECKLIST - GUIDE / ANSWER KEY

1	Write down the prospective veterinarian's name in this box.
2	Check the box that best describes how you found this veterinarian.
3	Check your State Board's Disciplinary Records to see if this veterinarian's name is listed.
4	Search this veterinarian's name in the major internet search engines (Google, MSN, Yahoo, etc.) to check for problems not in public records.
5	The veterinarian's license should be posted in a conspicuous place for all to see.
6	Check to make sure the veterinarian's license is valid and not expired.
7	There should be a sign posted in a prominent area telling you where you can file a complaint against the veterinarian.
8	This is useful for determining the experience the veterinarian may or may not have and how far removed they are from the latest advances.
9	A prominent, well known, and respected institution may mean a better educated veterinarian.
10	Vet techs may handle your pet more than the veterinarian. Having a license indicates receiving formal training.
11	Make sure the veterinarian is experienced in dealing with your particular breed / pet.
12	Affiliations may mean they have standards that must be adhered to.
13	To be certified in a particular specialty, the veterinarian must have the education required to make such a claim.
14	The office hours should be convenient and compatible with your schedule.
15	If appointments are required, that requires you to plan ahead.
16	You may prefer to always see the same veterinarian. In a multiple vet practice, this may or may not be possible.
17	FIND OUT who answers the after hours calls.
18	Is the veterinarian available for any after hours emergency care? If not, find out and check out the referral.
19	Many vet practices leave the animals unattended to at night. Does this one?
20	The veterinarian must have a backup vet for when he/she is unavailable. Be careful to check out each vet.
21	This is helpful in making sure there is a clear understanding in just exactly what surgeries / procedures you have authorized.
22	Thorough records that are easily purchased are vital to your pet's future care by providing a thorough history and are extremely important in the event that something goes wrong.
23	This may be an indication that the veterinarian is either too busy to answer calls or has a lack of concern for his/her patients.
24	New studies show that annual re-vaccinations may not be necessary.
25	Filling the prescriptions themselves is one of the veterinarian's biggest moneymakers. Refusing to give you the prescription to be filled elsewhere speaks for itself. (Note: Some states do not allow you to get the prescription filled elsewhere.)
26	Check to make sure this person is a veterinarian, licensed vet tech and/or directly supervised by the vet.
27	If done elsewhere, find out why and who does the testing.
28	Most veterinarians cannot be specialists in all areas and must be willing to refer you to a specialist.
29	Beware of a vet using lesser trained assistants and/or their family members practicing on your pet.
30	Be careful that the family members do not try to perform vet-only procedures without the vet present.
31	Compare fees with other veterinarians if cost is a factor, but beware of "Dr. Cheap Vet."
32	Something to consider if cost is a factor.
33	Better to know beforehand.
34	With the rising cost of vet care and certain procedures, this may be a necessity.
35	Better to know beforehand.
36	Self-explanatory
37	Self-explanatory
38	Self-explanatory
39	Can your pet escape when taken outside? Area should be secure to prevent this from happening.
40	Self-explanatory