

Setting your dog up for success at the vet!



LITTLE CREEK
VETERINARY CLINIC

During their lifetime, most dogs will need vaccines, bloodwork and examinations of various body parts. Getting your pup familiar and comfortable with various types of restraint and handling at home will greatly reduce their stress during routine visits and help limit anxiety around visiting the vet!

STANDING RESTRAINT

Used commonly for exams, vaccines, and nail trims.

Place one arm loosely around your dogs neck and one arm under their tummy, right in front of their hind legs and pull them towards you like a great big hug!



Staff dog Baby in standing restraint on a table.



Staff dog Murphy in standing restraint on the floor.

LATERAL RESTRAINT

Used commonly for examination of the limbs and blood collection.

Have your dog lay down. Using your hands, reach over their body and hold onto the legs closest to the ground to keep them from standing up. Lay the arm close to their head over their neck to maintain control of the head.



Staff dog Baby in lateral restraint.



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SITTING RESTRAINT

Used commonly for examination of the eyes, teeth, and legs. The head is held up for jugular blood collection.

While the dog is sitting, place an arm around their neck and another arm around the bum to prevent them from going backwards. To practice for standard venipuncture, point their chin towards the ceiling.



Staff dog Baby in sitting restraint on a table.



Staff dog Murphy in sitting restraint on the floor. His head is being held for a jugular blood collection.

OTHER TIPS

- Touch your puppy everywhere! Having your dog comfortable being touched and examined can improve the quality of care they are able to receive. Practice lifting up their lips, touching toes, and playing with their ears. Being able to examine your dog all over at home will be helpful for you to notice if anything is abnormal so you know when to bring them in for a second opinion.
- Bring your puppy to the clinic for social visits! Let us know that you are stopping by and we'll pop your furry friend on a scale and take them to the treatment room for treats. This can help a lot with reducing anxiety around being taken to the treatment area for routine procedures!
- Reward your puppy consistently! It's important to positively associate handling and restraint to make them less scary experiences. If treats and rewards are given, handling for procedures can become exciting for dogs.