

**Information Guidelines for Preparing
Your Pet for a Dermatology Appointment with
Dr. Kevin Shanley and Dr. Brian Palmeiro**

Dr. Brian Palmeiro and Dr. Kevin Shanley alternate seeing appointments two Fridays a month, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. If requesting a specific doctor please advise receptionist when scheduling the appointment. We request that you complete the following forms and bring them with you on the day of your appointment.

[Dermatology History Form](#)

[Welcome Sheet](#)

[Credit Card Authorization](#)

1. Do not feed your pet 12 hours prior to your appointment. Diabetic patients and other pets that need to eat for medical reasons should do so as medically required. Administer insulin, heart medication (excluding heartworm preventative) and any other medication if medically required. Thyroid medication should be administered 4 hours prior to your appointment if possible. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call.
2. Do not bathe your pet for 5 days prior to the appointment. Avoid ear cleaning or ear medications 2 days prior to the appointment.
3. **Bring proof of rabies vaccination (date given) from your primary care veterinarian. Please bring photocopy of your pet's medical records of preferably a written case summary** from your veterinarian. They may also fax records and history to our office at 610-435-6378.
4. Appointment times usually last 45 minutes to 2 ½ hours, depending on which procedures are performed. Some tests require 8-9 hours to complete. Please schedule your day accordingly.
5. Most dermatology problems require at least one follow-up visit and often more than one. Many dermatologic problems require lifelong maintenance treatment and periodic reexamination visits.
6. **ESTIMATE OF FEES:** The initial office visit is \$205. Diagnostic tests, medications and follow-up visits are additional. Fees incurred during a typical initial visit may vary from approximately \$300-\$600. If allergy testing is performed, fees range from approximately \$600-\$1,200, including the initial allergy vaccine which lasts approximately 4-6 months. It also depends on whether additional diagnostic tests are performed and which medications are dispensed. Payment in full is required at the time services are performed. VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, Checks (with valid ID due to electronic processing), Care Credit and cash are accepted.
7. **CANCELLATION POLICY:** Due to long waiting period for appointments, there is a strict cancellation policy. Late cancellations (**less than 3 business days prior to the appointment, not including weekends and holidays**) and missed appointments are costly and cause unnecessary delay to other patients that need to be seen. **A cancellation fee of \$140 will be charged for late cancellations and missed appointments.**

8. **Thyroid Medication:** As previously mentioned, try to give the thyroid medication 4 hours prior to the appointment in the event that a blood test is required.
9. **ALLERGY TESTING:** Patients that are candidates for allergy testing have additional requirements to improve the success of allergy testing. Many medications, such as steroids and antihistamines, can interfere with allergy testing. In some patients, it is easier to see the pet first even though he/she is taking steroids or antihistamines and help prepare the patient for allergy testing in the future. Female dogs in heat (estrus), in false heat, or that are pregnant cannot be allergy tested. If your pet is currently taking oral steroids, discuss an appropriate withdrawal schedule with your primary care veterinarian. Rapid steroid withdrawal can cause side effects. The following withdrawal times are recommended for **dogs**:

- 90 Days: Long-acting steroid (cortisone) injections including Betasone (betamethasone), Depo-Medrol (methylprednisolone acetate)
- 60 Days: Intermediate-acting steroid (cortisone) injections including Azium (dexamethasone) and Vetalog (triamcinolone)
- 30 Days: Oral, injectable (short-acting) and topical (eye, skin and ear medications) including prednisone, prednisolone, Medrol (methylprednisolone), Temeril-P, DES, Ovaban/Megace (megestrol acetate); ear Medications: Otomax, Tresaderm, Panalog, Liquichlor, Synotic, Gentocin Otic, Mometamax, and generic equivalents of these medications; Eye Medications: check with your primary care veterinarian or veterinary ophthalmologist prior to discontinuing steroid-containing eye medications.
- 14 Days: Antihistamines including Benadryl (diphenhydramine), ChlorTrimeton (chlorpheniramine), Atarax (hydroxyzine), Tavist (clemastine), Elavil (amitriptyline), Clomi Calm (clomipramine), Periactin (cyproheptadine), Sinequan (doxepin), Temaril (trimeprazine), Claritin, Zyrtec, etc. If you have any questions, please call.

The following withdrawal times are recommended for **cats** prior to allergy testing:

- 30 Days: Long-acting steroid (cortisone) injections including Betasone (betamethasone), Depo-Medrol (methylprednisolone acetate); Intermediate-acting steroid (cortisone) injections including Azium (dexamethasone) and Vetalog (triamcinolone); Oral, injectable (short-acting) and topical (eye, skin and ear medications) including prednisone, prednisolone, Medrol (methylprednisolone), Temeral-P, DES, Ovaban/Megace (megestrol acetate); Ear Medications: Otomax, Tresaderm, Panalog, Liquichlor, Synotic, Gentocin Otic, Mometamax, and generic equivalents of these medications; Eye Medications: check with your primary care veterinarian or veterinary ophthalmologist prior to discontinuing steroid-containing eye medications.
- 14 Days: Antihistamines including Benadryl (diphenhydramine), ChlorTrimeton (chlorpheniramine), Atarax (hydroxyzine), Tavist (clemastine), Elavil (amitriptyline), Clomi Calm (clomipramine), Periactin (cyproheptadine), Sinequan (doxepin), Temaril (trimeprazine), Claritin, Zyrtec, etc. If you have any questions, please call.

Please call us at Valley Central Referral (610) 435-1553 if you have any further questions or visit our website at www.vcvrh.com.