



Behaviour assessment for your dog

As veterinarians, we play an important role in the mental health care of animals. If your dog has behaviour problems, there are several options available to help your furry friend. Referral to a veterinary behaviour specialist is the gold standard, but it is understandable that this may not be available to all clients. In such cases, ABAdog is an online tool now available to assess and recommend solutions for your dog's behavioural issues. This technology gives us a summary of the problems and gives you some useful behavioural advice to follow. It has significantly lifted our standard of treatment for canine mental health since its implementation at our clinic.

How ABAdog works

ABAdog is super easy to use! Once you've decided you'd like to manage your dog's behaviour, we send you an email with a link to the ABAdog online questionnaire. The questionnaire takes you 30-60 minutes to complete. You will be asked lots of questions, which are used to give the technology a general impression of the kind of behavioural issues your dog is having. Once complete, you will get a customised behaviour report with specific advice for your dog! This advice will help you to understand why things are happening, in most cases dogs are not "naughty" or "bad", but **distressed** and in need of help.

Why can't I just come in and talk to the vet?

It takes a *specialist* vet more than 2 hours to do a dog behavioural consultation, so we cannot expect to address the problem in a 15-30 minute consult in a busy general practice clinic! Apart from sending you, the owner, a customised behaviour report, the ABAdog website will also send us a general summary of your questionnaire. This way the vet can read through the questionnaire results before/during the appointment, which gives us a broad understanding of the issues that we wouldn't get from talking to you. It also helps us decide if further treatment might be required.

It is important to remember that medications which are often prescribed to dogs with behavioural problems are not a sole treatment. They should always be prescribed in conjunction with a behaviour modification plan. Such a plan will be provided to you on completion of the ABAdog questionnaire.

To be sent a link, please talk to one of our friendly staff in store.