



Thank you for scheduling an appointment with the Care Center Dayton Internal Medicine Service. We look forward to becoming part of your pet's medical team as we work closely with you and your primary care veterinarian to provide guidance in the care of your pet.

Please take time to review the following information before your appointment.

Before the Internal Medicine Appointment

We will reach out to your primary care veterinarian to obtain records prior to your visit. You can help our team by letting us know where your pet has been evaluated or treated, most importantly in the last 1-2 years. *Please note: our doctors do not review the records until the time of appointment. We cannot give medical advice until we have seen your pet and established a valid veterinary/client/patient relationship.*

Take a few moments before the appointment to **write down your most significant concerns about your pet's health and your goals for the appointment.** Consider how long any problems have been going on/when they started, what medications or changes in diet have been tried, whether any previous treatments have helped, and if there have been any changes in weight, drinking habits, urinary habits, or bowel habits.

Unless directed otherwise, **don't feed your pet the morning of the appointment** (they should always have access to fresh water). If your pet is very young, has diabetes, or low blood sugar, please ask your veterinarian if this is appropriate.

Bring all medications your pet is taking with you to your appointment, or bring a list of the drug names, doses, and frequency of administration. Information regarding their current treatments is very important.

During the Appointment

Don't allow your pet to urinate before coming into the building as we may want to collect a urine sample for evaluation.

After checking in at the front desk, you and your pet will be directed to a room. You will start your visit with one of our experienced Licensed Veterinary Technicians or Veterinary Assistants (behind the scenes, the doctor is reviewing all of those medical records we mentioned before). Once the technician has gathered information about your pet's medical history, they will take your pet to be examined by the doctor and discuss any information that you communicated.

After an examination is performed, the doctor will create an initial diagnostic plan; all information from the medical record and previously performed tests is considered when creating this plan. Our team will create a detailed and transparent estimate for the cost of each plan. Depending on the situation, the initial plan may be presented to you by the doctor or one of our experienced technicians or assistants. If



you would like to discuss your pet's care with a doctor before deciding how to move forward, please let us know and we will be happy to discuss the options for care in detail. You are an important part of your pet's care team, and we want to make sure you feel comfortable with all diagnostic and treatment decisions.

While many diagnostic tests (such as blood tests and ultrasound) may be performed the day of your initial appointment, procedures that require anesthesia (such as endoscopy, bronchoscopy, and certain biopsies) are rarely completed the same day as the initial appointment. If your pet requires one of these procedures, we will schedule a follow up appointment for the procedure on another day.

After the initial diagnostic tests are performed, the doctor will discuss the results in detail as well as options for further evaluation and/or treatment.

What Comes Next?

Some problems may be easily diagnosed and treated in a single visit, however, pets evaluated by an Internal Medicine Specialist often have complicated medical problems that require an extensive evaluation. **It may take several appointments to reach a diagnosis and create an optimal treatment plan.** Depending on the severity of your pet's condition, we will work to coordinate follow-up visits and ongoing care with your primary care veterinarian.

After each appointment, you will get a detailed email from us summarizing the visit and recommendations moving forward. Please review this email thoroughly as it contains important information regarding our recommendations for care and follow up evaluations.