

What to expect at my pet's Dermatology Appointment

Who Will I See During My Initial Appointment?

Overview: UW Veterinary Care is a teaching institution, and your care team includes a board-certified veterinary specialist in Dermatology, veterinary nurses (clinical technicians), veterinarians in advanced clinical training programs (residents and interns), fourth-year veterinary students, and at times, visiting veterinary students or veterinarians.

Examination: For your initial examination/evaluation, you should be prepared to spend at least 2 hours at the clinic. Typically, a veterinary technician or 4th year veterinary student will meet you at your vehicle to receive your pet. A technician and/or veterinary student will review your pet's medical history with you, either curbside or over the phone. Inside, the supervising veterinarian and other team members will perform an initial examination. The clinician (doctor) will call you to explain their initial assessment and make recommendations for an initial diagnostic plan. Together with the care team, you will decide on the best diagnostic plan for your family.

Diagnostic Tests: Some tests can be completed rather quickly – within 30-60 minutes. In other cases, pets may need to stay with us for several hours in order to complete tests and/or treatments. In some cases, we may need to give your pet sedative medications to minimize their stress during the testing; we will discuss this with you at the time of the appointment.

Discharge: At discharge, the clinician and student will discuss and explain any test results that are available. Other test results may take up to 14 days; in this case, we'll call you. **They will also make recommendations for treatment, if needed. The discussion at discharge may take longer than you might anticipate. Please plan on spending at least 15 minutes, and up to an hour, with our team discussing results, treatment, prognosis and making a plan for ongoing care.** Once finalized, we will send a detailed written report of diagnostic findings and treatment plans to you and your primary care veterinarian via email. After your appointment or hospital discharge, we will work with you and your referring primary care veterinarian to provide continued care. Please be sure that you have all prescribed medications for your pet before you leave. For more information about our services, and specific skin conditions, please visit our webpage at the following address: <https://uwveterinarycare.wisc.edu/small-animal/cats-and-dogs/dermatology/>

Who are all of these people?

- **Faculty Clinicians:** Our faculty are licensed veterinarians, board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Dermatology, who are nationally and internationally recognized experts in the dermatological care of pets.
- **Technicians:** Our veterinary technicians are licensed and experienced veterinary nurses.
- **Client Services:** Our client services representatives manage patient check-in and discharge, schedule appointments and accept financial payments.

- **Dermatology Residents:** Our residents are all licensed veterinarians who have completed at least one year of advanced clinical training. They provide clinical service and teach students as part of an accredited program leading to board certification by the American College of Veterinary Dermatology.
- **Small Animal Interns:** Interns are licensed veterinarians in an accredited advanced clinical training program. They also provide clinical service and teaching.
- **Fourth-Year Medical Students:** Our fourth-year Doctor of Veterinary Medicine students rotate through hospital services to gain closely supervised clinical experience.

What Costs and Fees Should I Expect?

The new-patient examination fee is between \$200-220, which includes examination by and consultation with a Dermatology Service clinician. Subsequent progress check examinations are typically between \$80-100.

Including the examination and tests, most initial outpatient evaluations cost a total of \$300 - \$600, depending on the nature of the testing done. Specialized testing, such as allergy testing, is higher in cost. Medication costs are in addition to these estimates.

Please don't hesitate to discuss the cost of your pet's workup if you have concerns or are unclear about the cost of the proposed diagnostic or treatment course.

Pricing current as of February 2021. Prices are subject to change.

If your pet is hospitalized, billing staff will contact you by phone to collect a deposit comprising 50% of the upper end of the estimate range provided by the Dermatology Service. Please note that for outpatient visits and hospitalized patients, the balance must be paid in full at the time of patient discharge. Charges or credits may be applied to your bill up to 10 business days after the date of discharge.

Payment methods: We accept all major credit cards, cash, check or Care Credit. Payment in full is due at the time of discharge.

Care Credit: You may apply for Care Credit at 1-800-677-0718 or www.carecredit.com (select UW Veterinary Care). If you have questions or concerns regarding using Care Credit at UWVC, please contact the reception desk at any time (608-263-7600)

