

Dear _____,

This is to confirm the appointment you have made for your pet, _____,
on _____ at _____ am / pm.

Many clients are coming to a veterinary referral practice for the first time and have questions regarding the visit. Factors such as cost of the visits, treatments, and the time spent on appointments can be a surprise to someone who is not familiar with a dermatologist's fees and policies. Generally speaking, the initial visit fees can average between \$ 450.00 and \$ 550.00. This includes the initial visit, skin scrapes, fungal cultures, cytology and basic blood work (not medications). More involved diagnostic test that include specific testing for thyroid disease, adrenal disease, and/or biopsies will be more expensive and may involve repeat visits in order to complete the work up. Allergy testing and interpretation is very time consuming and proportionately more expensive. **Payment for services is due in full at the time of each appointment.**

You should plan on spending about 1 1/2 hours at the clinic with your pet for your first appointment. This visit is usually the longest, and subsequent visits are usually no longer than 30 minutes unless special testing is being done. In order to give your pet the best possible care, **please have your pet's medical previous medical records faxed to 609.259.8484 at least 24 hours before your visit.** Be sure to include any blood tests or other testing that has been done. In addition, please fill out the enclosed forms regarding your pet's current skin problems and bring them with you to the initial visit. This information will aid us in focusing on the progression of the disease process over time.

Finally, please do not bathe your pet or give any medications for the skin disease before coming for your appointment. Steroids need to be avoided for at least 4 to 6 weeks in cases where allergy testing is being considered, antihistamines such as Benadryl, hydroxyzine (Atarax), and chlorpheniramine (ClorTrimenton) cannot be used for 14 to 21 days before allergy testing. If you are unsure whether or not to stop a medication, please call our office.

Allergy testing will most likely NOT be done at the time of your initial consultation. Should you need to cancel or reschedule an appointment, we require that you call us at least 24 hours in advance. Please do not hesitate to call the office if you have any further questions regarding your appointment with your pet. I look forward to meeting you and your pet.

At your service,

Sheila M. Gomez, VMD