



## Collaborative Consulting Model

A Collaborative Consulting Model calls for seamless cooperation and an exchange of usable information between the dog behavior consultant, client, veterinarian, and/or veterinary behaviorist. Groomers, breeders, extended family, etc., may also be included in the loop, depending on the issues.

This is different from the model of old that says, "refer to a veterinarian first to rule out medical issues before doing a consult". Rather, dog behavior consultants optimize opportunities to help dogs by establishing relationships with client families and by facilitating referrals. Dog behavior consultants do what they can to ensure that clients travel informed and veterinarians have the information they need to make decisions. This may mean that the dog behavior consultant sends the client to a veterinarian or veterinary behaviorist with a written report, establishes contact by phone, or does information research and provides usable information in the form of articles with state-of-the-art information in them. The client gets where they need to go, but with support from the dog behavior consultant, and the dog behavior consultant provides colleagues with usable information.

Dog Behavior Consultants do not advise on medical issues, drugs or diet. However, they may research and make information from known reliable sources (with copyright clearances) available to veterinarians, other colleagues and clients. Reliable sources might include leading members of the veterinary and veterinary behavior community and peer-reviewed journals and other trusted publications.

Dog Behavior Consultants are aware of laws in their states governing the practice of veterinary medicine. They are not to practice veterinary medicine without a license.