



The Earlysville Animal Hospital

505 St. Francis Avenue

Earlysville, VA 22936

(434) 973-9699

earlysvillebehaviorclinic@gmail.com

www.earlysvilleanimalhospital.com

Earlysville Behavior Clinic

These days, companion animals live with us as close family members and are impacted by our lifestyle, daily schedule, living environment as well as our interaction with them. The relationship we have with our pets can be enjoyable or stressful depending on their behavior.

Aggression, destroying furniture, barking, or house soiling are common problems that contribute to the breakdown of our human animal bond. Some behaviors can be very difficult to manage and stressful or even dangerous to live with. Your pet may also suffer from fear or anxiety that contributes to the current behavior problems.

If you feel you do not understand your pet's behavior and need help, we are here to assist you with your pet's behavior problem. Through a behavior consultation, we gather information regarding possible causes and contributing factors of the problematic behavior to make a diagnosis and behavior modification plan. Since each animal and family is different, we determine the most feasible and suitable treatment plans to fit your individual situation.

Dr. Emily Kinnaird received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Georgia in 1979. She lived in Queensland, Australia where she received a Masters of Veterinary Science. She was a clinician at the University of Queensland and ran the behavior clinics there. Her passion is behavioral medicine and she is pleased to be offering behavioral counseling here at Earlysville Animal Hospital.

What to bring to a behavior appointment

Please dress comfortably for your appointment. Bring any training equipment that you use with your pet on a regular basis. We also highly encourage you to send us or bring a short (less than 10 minutes) video clip of your pet's problem behavior if this can be obtained safely. We will be giving your pet food rewards for good behavior while he/she is here. If your pet requires a special diet, please bring along some treats that your pet especially likes.

Please bring your pet and any family members that are involved in the behavior problem or the treatment of the problem. Each appointment will take approximately 1.5 hours so it might be difficult to have young children attend with you if you do not have an extra helper for them. If you need to bring more than one animal to the appointment, please let us know in advance. We recommend that each dog brought to an appointment has its own handler.

There is a common waiting room for all animals coming to Earlysville Animal Hospital. If you are not comfortable or feel that it is not safe to bring your animal to a public waiting area, please inform the reception staff when the appointment is made. You may leave your pet for short periods in the car

while you notify the receptionist that you have arrived. You may also call 434-973-9699 when you arrive. Our staff will assist you to bring your pet directly into the consultation room. For safety purposes, we ask that dogs are brought on leashes (not flexi-leads) and that cats are brought in carriers.

How to be prepared to a behavior appointment

We request you bring your pet to the consultation hungry by skipping the morning meal before the appointment. This helps your pet interact with us during training and behavior modification.

Items that will be helpful to bring include:

- Favorite treats (especially if your pet has food allergies)
- A favorite toy
- Any training tools or aids that are previously used
- Current medication/supplements used

During your appointment, the history questionnaire will be reviewed in detail. A physical examination will be performed if it can be done safely and without overly distressing your pet. Additionally, recommendations may be made for medical diagnostic tests for problems that may be related to your pet's behavioral issues.

Resolution or control of behavior problems may include components of any of the following:

- Diet, nutrition and exercise
- Changes in the home environment
- Safety management steps to prevent injury to other people and animals
- Basic training exercises
- Behavior modification and relaxation exercises
- Pharmacological support

Your consultation will include discussions of all of the above as deemed appropriate for your pet's situation. Due to time limitations and the volume of information to cover, discussion of some of these topics may be postponed until your recheck appointment. Demonstration of some techniques will be done if your pet is comfortable enough to participate in them in the clinic environment. The initial consultation will take approximately 1.5 hours. (Recheck visits typically last 30 to 60 minutes.)

In some cases, medication may be recommended as an adjunct to your pet's behavior modification plan. Medication alone will not resolve your pet's behavior problem. Some pets may show initial response to medication alone, but in the absence of concurrent environmental change and behavior modification, the vast majority of these patients relapse in the future.

The cost of the initial behavior consult, including a physical exam is \$320.00. Blood tests or additional diagnostics are not included.

Most behavior problems typically have complex causes, and therefore, no simple quick solutions. Although some animals show improvement very rapidly, long-term alterations in your pet's behavior will take time. For this reason, rechecks are strongly encouraged to ensure that you and your pet continue

showing satisfactory progress. The degree of improvement in your pet's behavior will depend in part on your individual pet, the duration of the problem, and most importantly, your commitment and ability to implement the suggested treatment plan. Specific outcomes cannot be guaranteed.

Unfortunately, no guarantees can be given regarding the outcome of your pet's behavior program. It is misleading and disreputable for a business to give you specific guarantees regarding behavior problems, particularly such problems as aggression. No animal is 100% predictable 100% of the time. There are many factors that affect the success of any behavior program including the environment in which the animal lives, the animal's underlying genetic make-up, and your ability to implement the recommended treatment steps. In order for the pet's behavior to change, you must be able to make changes in the environment and your own behavior. Your pet's behavior will not improve spontaneously.

Please remember that most behavior problems require time to correct. The information you receive during your first visit is a starting point in your pet's road to rehabilitation. Follow up calls and visits may be necessary to ensure that your pet's progress continues in a satisfactory fashion. Keeping a journal of your pet's progress will help us all modify our plan as needed.

Due to the length of time scheduled for your behavior consult, we ask that you notify us 48 hours before the appointment to cancel or change the appointment time. We will do our best to work with you to schedule a convenient time.

Our contact information is:

Dr. Emily Kinnaird
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Earlysville, VA 22936
434-973-9699
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Directions to the animal hospital:

From Charlottesville – Take 29 N to Airport Road.

From Ruckersville – Take 29 S to Airport Road.

Turn onto Airport Road.

Go thru traffic circle and take Dickerson Road South (last exit).

At next traffic circle take first exit onto Earlysville Road.

Go 2.8 miles thru Earlysville

The clinic is located on the left before the Earlysville General Store.

***Due to length of time allowed a 24-hour notice is to be given if there is a need to cancel. A \$75.00 deposit will be required and will be forfeited if appointment is not kept or cancelled without proper notification. ***