

What is Telehealth?

Telehealth includes any use of technology to remotely receive healthcare information or services for your pet. It might involve texts, emails, video chats, mobile apps, or even wearable devices.

Veterinary hospitals have expanded their use of technology during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some appointments and treatments obviously must be done in person, but other consultations, follow-ups, and in-the-moment observations can be done remotely using telehealth. For example, discussions on nutrition and behavior training lend themselves nicely to telehealth. You can have your veterinary team's full attention and get your questions answered when it's convenient for you both, saving a trip to the hospital.



Examples of veterinary telehealth include;

Video chat about nutrition for your new kitten or napping a photo of your dog's rash



A teletriage appointment with an ER veterinarian to assess whether your pet needs urgent care in the middle of the night

Video-recording your dog to assess behavior and training concepts in the home

Receiving an e-prescription for your pet's medication refill

Your role in the future of telehealth:



Don't be shy about sharing feedback if your veterinarian has adopted technology that is hard to use.

If you purchase wearables or remote monitors for your pet, be sure to ask for details on if, how, and when the veterinary team wants to receive data, as well as how they're going to use that information as part of a wellness or treatment plan.

The use of technology to assist in caring for your pets is only going to improve and become more widespread as consumers like you ask for more telehealth services.

Veterinary hospitals offer different levels of telehealth, so be sure to check with our team about the specifics, and add telehealth to your list of criteria when looking for a new veterinarian or veterinary hospital.

