



By Dr. Maria Krenz, DVM – The Zimmerman Veterinary Clinic 763-856-4848

Is My Pet Normal?

At The Zimmerman Veterinary Clinic we answer pet questions every day. Here are some common ones pet owners ask.

Why does my pet scoot its hind end on the ground?

A pet rubbing its hind end on the ground is not a normal behavior. This is most likely indicating your pet has full anal glands. Pets have 2 anal glands which are right inside the anus. These are scent glands that should express a brown liquid pungent material. In some pets these glands can fill up, becoming very irritating to the pet. This can lead to infection and a painful rupture of the glands. The anal glands should be expressed (relieved) by a veterinary technician or doctor, if you see your pet scooting. Occasionally, irritation from intestinal parasites may cause scooting, a stool sample should be checked to see if your pet needs deworming.

Is licking of the paws normal?

Occasional licking can be a normal grooming behavior. If the paw licking happens on a daily basis, or if it occurs more often during a certain time of the year, this can indicate a medical problem. Pets that are suffering from allergies can have inflamed and itchy skin causing them to lick their paws. Older pets that are suffering from arthritis can also lick over joints that are causing discomfort. There are many treatments available to make your pet more comfortable.

Why does my pet eat feces?

Unfortunately, eating feces is a common behavior for dogs. A physical exam and lab tests should be performed to make sure a medical reason does not exist for this behavior. Behavioral reasons may exist and training activities can help the problem. Removing the feces or making them inaccessible in the case of cat litter boxes is the best way to eliminate this behavior. In situations where this is not possible there are many products available that can be fed to pets to discourage this behavior. It is especially important that pets that eat feces are on a monthly parasite prevention program such as Heartgard monthly.

Is vomiting normal?

Occasional vomiting can be caused by temporary gastrointestinal upset. Many dogs eat things that they are not supposed to or eat quickly. Occasional vomiting of hairballs can also be considered a normal behavior. If your pet is vomiting more than once per day or if it is happening on a regular basis without any apparent reason, you should make an appointment with your veterinarian.

Disclaimer: This written content is meant to be educational and is not medical advice. Always consult a veterinarian about medical advice for your pet.