

## The Next Big Thing: Calmer Vet & Grooming Visits

### Alexis Davison

The topic of reducing the stress of vet and grooming visits has been simmering since Dr. Sophia Yin's book *Low Stress Handling Restraint and Behavior Modification of Dogs & Cats* was first published in 2009. More recently the Fear Free Initiative, developed by "America's Veterinarian," Dr. Marty Becker, has garnered increasing attention. A certification program for veterinarians and other animal professionals, the Fear Free Initiative aims to "take the 'pet' out of 'petrified'" for veterinary visits. Dr. Becker's Fear Free Practice certification program is anticipated to launch in 2018.

#### Online learning & resources:

Fear Free <https://fearfreepets.com>

KPA Better Veterinary Visits <https://www.karenpryoracademy.com/better-vet>

Low stress handling University <https://lowstresshandling.com>

<http://www.growlsnarlsnap.com/ondemand> (Lisa Mullinax cooperative care)

<http://abtconcepts.com/ready-set-groomer-vet/> (Laura Monaco Torelli)

Alexis will discuss ways dog trainers can work collaboratively with veterinarians and groomers to assist training clients in reducing their dogs' stress during visits.

You'll gain some quick tips for immediate use:

- Booking appointments
- Managing the wait
- Snuffle mats
- Lick mats
- Automatic dispensers

You'll learn a series of training exercises to incorporate into existing training programs or develop into a stand-alone workshop for your clients, including:

- Targeting exercises (chin, nose & paw)
- Mat training
- Useful position changes
- Desensitisation & counter conditioning to handling & grooming
- The bucket game
- Low stress blood draw

The presentation will include footage from vet visits and grooming and handling sessions so you can see these techniques in action.

Lastly, you'll receive tips on how to market The Next Big Thing in your community.