

Understanding Your Pet's Behaviour

Family Matters

If only our pets could talk.

Imagine how much easier life would be if your dog could say, "My ear hurts," or your cat could tell you, "I'm feeling anxious." Instead, our pets communicate through their behaviour. Every wag of the tail, every purr, every bark, every change in routine is their way of telling us how they're feeling.

At Amity, we believe that understanding your pet's behaviour is one of the greatest gifts you can give them. **Behaviour is communication.** The better you learn their language, the better you'll care for them.

Behaviour Is More Than Training

Many people think behaviour simply means whether a dog is obedient or a cat scratches the furniture. In reality, behaviour is how your pet experiences the world.

A change in behaviour is often the very first sign that something has changed physically or emotionally.

Know What's Normal

Every pet has their own personality.

Some dogs greet everyone they meet, while others are naturally reserved. Some cats are constantly by your side, while others prefer their own company.

The important thing isn't comparing your pet to someone else's—it's recognising when **your** pet behaves differently from normal.

Behaviour Can Be a Sign of Illness

Changes in behaviour are often your pet's earliest cry for help.

For example, your pet may:

- Sleep more than usual.
- Become quieter or withdrawn.
- Hide more often.
- Become clingier than normal.
- Lose interest in food or play.
- Become grumpy or irritable.
- Pace around the house.
- Drink more water.

- Start toileting indoors.
- Become unusually vocal.

These changes don't always mean illness, but they should never be ignored. Pain, hormonal disorders, neurological conditions, dental disease and many other medical problems can first appear as behavioural changes.

Before assuming your pet has a behavioural problem, it's always worth considering whether they may have a medical one.

Behaviour Reflects Emotional Well-being Too

Just like people, pets experience fear, stress, excitement and frustration.

Changes such as moving house, a new baby, another pet, different routines or being left alone for longer can all affect how your pet behaves.

Providing routine, enrichment, exercise, training and quality time together helps your pet feel secure and confident.

You're the Expert on Your Pet

No one knows your pet as well as you do.

If you ever find yourself saying,

"She's just not herself,"

or

"He's acting differently,"

trust your instincts.

You don't need to know why the behaviour has changed—that's what we're here to help with.

Understanding Builds Stronger Relationships

The best relationships are built on communication, and the same is true for our pets.

The more you understand why your pet behaves the way they do, the more patient, compassionate and confident you'll become as a guardian.

At Amity, we don't just want to treat illness—we want to help you understand your pet so you can enjoy a lifetime of happiness together.

Because your pet isn't simply living in your house.

They're living in your family.

Family Matters.

If you need more information, book an appointment with an Amity vet. We're here to Empower You Through Education and help you become your pet's greatest advocate.