

## Choosing Your Dog's Second-Best Friend

**Your dog's veterinarian will become your partner in giving you canine friend the best care possible. Choose wisely.**

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A veterinarian is your pet's second-best friend. When selecting a veterinarian, you're doing more than searching for a medical expert. You're looking for someone to meet your needs and those of your pet, a doctor who has people as well as animal skills. Here are some tips from the University of Missouri-Columbia College of Veterinary Medicine that will aid you in your search for a great veterinarian: Look for a veterinarian who willingly answers your questions. Watch how the vet handles your dog. Your vet should provide emergency medical care 24 hours a day, seven days a week in some form, even if it is just to refer you to another location. Be sure the staff is friendly and helpful, as you may be dealing with them even more than the veterinarian. Look for a waiting area that is large enough to accommodate pets and owners without crowding and has a separate waiting area for dogs, cats and other animals.