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Be Aware - Mobile "parking lot" Clinics.

Increasingly, low-cost mobile "parking lot" veterinarian clinics have been popping up around the Nassau and Duval county areas. Many people are quickly persuaded to take their pet to them, assuming that there is no difference between doing that and taking them to an actual veterinary clinic.

In actuality, there are many big differences between the two, and we urge you to consider the facts:

- Mobile "parking lot" vet clinics enter an area, such as a parking lot or pet store, for an hour or two and then move on. They will not be there if your pet has a reaction, later on, to the vaccine, or if your pet needs additional care.
- They do not conduct a thorough exam, thereby creating a high potential for overlooking health problems that may be present, many of which could be life-threatening.
- Mobile "parking lot" vet clinics, whether in or outside the area, are set up to sell a product quickly and move on. Their assembly line approach does not build a long-lasting relationship of getting to know you and your pet in order to provide the best possible care for your situation.
- With the assembly line approach that mobile "parking lot" clinics take, they do not consider factors like medical history, activity level, or age. They simply give each animal in line the same vaccine.
- They do not always use the highest grade of vaccines available, and may not ensure that the vaccines are kept at the recommended temperatures in order to maintain their maximum effectiveness.
- Typically, the low-cost vaccine advertised is the one they are offering at their lowest price. That does not take into account other vaccines that may be needed; it simply provides a low number to get you in the door.
- Mobile "parking lot" vets are not there when you need them. They do not provide care 7 days a week or much care beyond routine vaccinations.

You need to keep the paperwork given to you by these clinics and make sure your regular veterinarian has a copy to update their records on vaccines. Trying to obtain these records after the fact is nearly impossible. They do not have a central database that they can readily access as your Veterinarian does.

Also, it is a state law that in order for your Veterinarian to provide prescription medications that include heartworm prevention and some flea products, the Doctor has to have examined your pet within a 12-month period. We too often have clients come in asking for medications not understanding this law.