

8 STEPS towards upgrading your practice to Windows 11

No need to fear, our expert IT partners at pute.us are here to help make your transition to Windows 11 as smooth as possible. Use this step-by-step list to guide your planning.

1

Run Microsoft's PC Health Check on all computers

Not all functioning clinic computers will be able to run Windows 11. Microsoft has set strict hardware requirements. Older front desk computers or exam room stations may not meet the cut. You should run the Microsoft PC Health Check Tool on every workstation to see if it's eligible. If not, consider a hardware upgrade plan.

2

Check with software vendors for Windows 11 compatibility

Many veterinary clinics use industry-specific tools like PIMS, in-house lab software, and digital imaging platforms. Think IntraVet, AVImark, ezyVet, IDEXX or Antech. These systems may not yet be fully tested or optimized for Windows 11. It's important to contact your software vendors and ask about compatibility, any known bugs or patches and what version your practice should be on before upgrading.

3

Inventory all peripherals for driver support

Don't forget your peripheral equipment! Devices like label printers, digital microscopes, dental imaging sensors, and barcode scanners may not work smoothly with Windows 11 right away. Driver issues are common during early adoption. You'll want to check each manufacturer's website for Windows 11 driver updates. If none are available, delay the upgrade for that station.

4

Create a timeline for phased upgrades

Start with non-critical workstations, like manager/admin computers or back-office PCs, before moving to front desk or treatment area machines. This allows you to test functionality in a low-stakes environment.



5

Back up all data and client records

Before upgrading, you want to create a safety net with copies of your digital data. Ensure that all medical records are backed up to cloud or external drives, your PIMS database is secured, and any shared documents (SOPs or HR files) are stored safely. An upgrade shouldn't erase data—but backups are insurance against the unexpected.

6

Prepare your team and provide basic training

Engage your staff ahead of time; they are daily operators of the impacted technology. Let them know when upgrades will happen, what changes they can expect and who to contact if something isn't working. Schedule basic team training or walkthroughs before switching over to Windows 11. A new interface means a learning curve, especially for team members who are less tech-savvy. Simple tasks like navigating menus or saving files might be confusing at first. Even a 30-minute team demo can smooth out the transition.

7

Involve your IT partner for guidance and support

Whether you have an in-house IT team or use a veterinary IT provider like pute.us schedule time for them to assess your systems and lead the upgrade process. They can save you considerable time and effort by confirming hardware/software compatibility, handling licensing, and managing potential rollbacks if something breaks. Having tech support on standby during the upgrade reduces downtime and frustration.

8

Delay upgrade if core tools or devices aren't ready

If you've vetted hardware and software compatibility, confirmed that peripheral drives are stable, and trained your team, move forward with the upgrade. But if you haven't checked all those boxes, it may be smart to wait. You want to be adequately prepared for changes and workflow disruptions to ensure your practice can adjust without impacting patient care.

**Need help navigating the upgrade?**

Patterson partners with pute.us for their exceptional IT support, dedicated exclusively to veterinary hospitals. They can help you audit your systems, plan for the upgrade, and maintain full operational continuity through the transition to Windows 11.

Learn more about how pute.us can keep your practice running smoothly at pattersonvet.com/pute or ask your rep.