

A Health Maintenance Program for Your Pet

Birth – 1 Year

In the first year of life dogs and cats require a lot of special care. Vaccinations are required at 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age, even if your pet does not go outdoors! Because of the tendency of young pets to get repeat worm infestations, stool samples are needed to be checked 2 or 3 times. A high quality diet should be used and a good vitamin supplement given. Frequent feedings is the rule. Start all dogs on Heartworm prevention tablets—it's easier to prevent than to treat. A puppy's first groom can be done at 3 months of age and then every 6-8 weeks as required.

At 6 months of age we advise spaying and neutering for all pets not intended for breeding. There are significant medical reasons for this –eg. reduction in cancer occurrence, fewer infections. While your pet is under anesthetic we recommend that his or first dental polish and fluoride be applied to reduce cavities, and that an identifying tattoo be placed in case your pet is ever lost. If you have a kitten and so desire, declawing the front paws can be done with only minor inconvenience at this age.

1–9 Years

At 1 year of age and every year thereafter your pet will require a physical exam, a stool analysis, and a booster vaccination against Rabies and Distemper. We again try to stress: even pets that do not go outdoors are able to get Distemper. In additional, all dogs have a Heartworm test done each spring, and are put on Heartworm prevention pills for the mosquito season.

This period of time in a pet's life is a period of little growth, so a good Maintenance diet is recommended. Dental care is also important. Most dogs and cats require a full dental cleaning, polishing, and fluoride application every 6 months to 2 years.

Continue with good grooming practices!

Watch for some of the signs of problems: changes in drinking–urinating or eating–changes in weight–loss of energy–itchiness, rash or loss of coat–lameness–discharges at nose, eyes, ears, rectum, sheath, or vadine. If you're in doubt call us!

In the summer months use a good flea preventive.

9 Years Plus

These are the years that metabolism slows down, organ function slowly diminishes and growths or cancers become more common. As earlier, we advise a year physical exam, vaccination booster, and stool test. However, we also recommend a yearly "Geriatric" on the older pets. We tailor each Geriatric exam to fit the risks associated with your pet's age and condition—it may be any or all of blood screen, EKG, Xrays, urinalysis. The aim is to find and treat minor ailments in your dog or cat before they become serious.

Continue with Heart worm prevention every year and grooming as your pet requires. Take special note of any lumps, bumps, or warts that arise, and warn the Veterinarian and groomer about these.

Significant periodontal disease is said to be present in 85% of the population. Have your pet's teeth cleaned every 6 months to 2 years to prevent pain, tooth loss and secondary organ disease.

Use a Geriatric diet and vitamins to reduce liver and kidney load.

The First Year

8 weeks: Distemper
12 weeks: Rabies & Distemper
16 weeks: Distemper
Stool tests, grooming
Growing Diet/Vitamins
6 months Spay/Neuter Declaw
Tattoo Polish and Fluoride

The Mature Pet

Yearly Exam,
Vaccine, Stool Test
Spring: Heartworm
Spring to Fall: Fleas
Full Dentals
Maintenance Diet
Regular Grooming

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