

Recommendations for your Pet's Wellness Visit



Below are the wellness recommendations and guidelines from our doctors. This information is intended to help you make the best decisions for you and your pet. Please use this information to complete the attached Checklist form, and return it to us before your appointment. The information you provide will help us to better prepare for your pet's upcoming visit.

Your Concerns: What concerns would you like addressed at this appointment?

Note here any medical concerns or questions you have. (Some examples: Recent lameness, ear issues, vomiting on and off, change in a long-term condition, eye issues, bed wetting, trouble getting up and down, change in behavior, etc.)

You know your pet best. You are your pet's voice and advocate. We rely on the information you provide to help us identify areas where we can help.

Long Term Medical Conditions: Is your pet currently being tracked or treated for a long-term condition? (Some examples include: Thyroid Disease, Diabetes, Cushing's, Addison's, Obesity, Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Heart Disease, Chronic Osteoarthritis, Allergies, etc.)

Please do not assume we know about these. List all conditions related to your pet.

Medications (Include Heartworm and Parasite Control): We need to keep an up to date list of all medications your pet is currently taking, including CBD products. Many medications interact with each other and can cause serious issues if given at the same time. Tell us the strength, how often you give it, and why your pet needs it.

Keeping us informed of all medications your pet takes is crucial for their health and safety.

Supplements: We also recommend a complete, up-to-date list of all supplements your pet is taking be kept on file. These supplements are potent for health and can also interact with medications. Tell us strength, how often you give it, and why your pet is taking it.

*** Supplements can cause unwanted side effects, and increase the risk of health concerns. Sometimes supplements will have a negative impact on a pet's health, particularly if paired with certain prescription medications. ***

Microchip: We scan your pet's microchip at each visit. We recommend every dog and cat be microchipped.

*** A microchip is your pet's best chance at being reunited with you in the event they are separated from you. This one-time expense is a great investment in your pet's safety and your peace of mind.***

Anal Glands: If your pet has been showing signs of anal gland irritation, or if your pet occasionally has a "fishy" or "metallic" odor from their backside, their anal glands should be expressed/emptied at your appointment. Signs of irritation include licking their rear or scooting on their rear.

If left untreated, full anal glands can easily become infected or abscessed. Abscessed or infected anal glands can be quite painful for your pet, which in turn can be expensive to treat.

Nail Trim: Your pet's nails should be kept at a short length to maintain their foot health. We recommend a nail trim if your pet's nails can be heard "clicking" when they walk on hard surfaces, have a split in the nail(s), and/or if the nails are long enough to trim easily.

***Keeping the nails shorter and well-trimmed will help prevent injuries and discomfort. Longer nails are more likely to be injured, split or torn off. Also, if a pet's nails are too long they can force your pet to change the way they walk, causing discomfort and/or arthritis.

Diet: Your pet should be on a high-quality food from a reputable manufacturer. Hills, Science Diet, Purina, Iams and Eukanuba are well-respected companies we recommend. We do not recommend free feeding, particularly if you have multiple pets. It is best to meal feed your pets separately, as most pets require a different amount of food daily and will very seldom self-regulate. In addition, as pets mature, they each develop individual dietary needs.

Having a single person responsible for feeding your pet ensures consistency of diet.

Limiting snacks, treats and people food helps keep your pet's diet healthy.

NOTE: It has been proven there is a definite link between feeding Grain Free Foods and heart disease (dilatative cardiomyopathy). For this reason we do not recommend feeding a grain free diet.

Food is not like medicine, it is medicine. What they eat is either good medicine, or bad medicine.

Body Condition Score: We recommend your pet be maintained at a healthy, lean body condition. They should have good muscle mass, have a light cover of flesh over their ribs, have easy to feel ribs, and have an easily visible waist from the side and from the top.

There is nothing more important to your pet's overall health than being in good body condition.

Vaccines:

Vaccine Reactions: Please let us know if your pet has had any reaction or incident in the past. Do not assume we know or remember.

Pet-Specific Vaccine Plans: All vaccine plans are created to be specific to your pet's health and lifestyle. Risk versus benefit is evaluated in each case.

Core Vaccines: Core vaccines are recommended for all dogs and cats, unless a medical condition makes them dangerous. Core Vaccines we recommend for Dogs are Rabies, DA2PP, and Bordetella. For Cats, we recommend the core vaccines of Rabies and FVRCP.

Non-Core Vaccines: We may recommend Non-Core Vaccines for certain patients based on their lifestyle and exposures. Non-Core Vaccines for Dogs are the Flu, Lyme and Rattlesnake Vaccines. For Cats, the Non-Core Vaccine is the FeLV.

Splitting Vaccines: Small dogs (<12 lbs) and Cats are more likely to be sore or have other vaccine associated incidents or reactions if they are given more than one or two injections at a time. Dogs and cats who have had a vaccine reaction previously are at risk as well. In these cases, we recommend some of them be done a week or so after the appointment as a Split Vaccine (at no additional charge).

Rabies Vaccinations: **Core Vaccine for all dogs and cats.** We require all patients to have a current Rabies Vaccine. State Law requires all pets to have a current Rabies Vaccine as well. The Rabies Vaccine helps to ensure the safety of our staff and you, as well as your pet. In specific instances, a pet may receive a medical exemption, but the exemption does not eliminate the risk to people or your pet. We may refuse to provide services to your pet if they do not have a current rabies vaccine and you refuse to update their rabies vaccine.

Vaccines for Dogs:

DA2PP: Core—(Distemper/Parvo/Hepatitis/Parainfluenza), Core

Bordetella: Core—(Kennel Cough)

Lepto: Non-Core—(Leptosporosis) This disease causes liver and kidney damage. It is important for dogs that spend time in areas with wildlife urine or feces. We typically recommend it for most medium to large breed dogs in this area. For smaller dogs, the incidence of vaccine reaction is slightly higher, so we look more closely at their risk of exposure before deciding to give this vaccine.

Canine Influenza: Non-Core—(Dog Flu) We recommend this for dogs that go to dog shows or if owners work at an animal shelter, a rescue, or a veterinary hospital.

Lyme's: Non-Core—(Lyme's Disease) Recommended for dogs with high exposure to ticks, especially in the southern, eastern and Great Lakes areas of the US.

Rattlesnake: Non-Core—Recommended only if there is an extremely high likelihood of your dog being bitten by a rattlesnake. Will more likely recommend if your dog is medium to large size, than if they are a smaller breed. Snake aversion training is far more effective and much safer for your pet.

Vaccines for Cats:

FVRCP: Core—(Rhinotracheitis/Calicivirus/Panleukopenia) (also known as Feline Distemper)

FeLV: Non-Core—(Feline Leukemia Virus) Recommended for outdoor cats, or cats with indoor/outdoor housemates. Also recommended for cats with FeLV positive housemates.

Parasite Control:

Dogs: We recommend every dog be given a monthly preventative for Heartworms, Fleas, Tapeworms, and Intestinal Parasites. Currently we recommend the product Sentinel Spectrum to help protect your dogs from these parasites.

Some dogs who have a high exposure to fleas and ticks may also need a monthly flea and tick preventative. We recommend Simperica for these dogs.

Cats: We recommend all cats receive a monthly preventative for intestinal parasites (Strongid or Profender). Outdoor cats should receive a tapeworm preventative every 2 to 3 months (Profender). You should also consider a heartworm preventative for your cat (Revolution).

Key Points to Consider:

- People can get parasites from their pets.
- The percent of dogs in our area that test positive for heartworm disease increases every year.
- We see flea infestations at our hospital almost weekly.
- The percent of dogs in our area that test positive for diseases ticks carry increases every year.
- Dogs and cats in our area regularly test positive for intestinal worms and tape worms.
- Cats benefit from heartworm prevention. Heartworm disease is much less common in cats, but even more life threatening for them.

Dental Care: We recommend a complete dental examination every 6 to 12 months, and dental treatment under anesthesia as needed/recommended. A complete dental examination is included in your pet's wellness examination. We also offer free dental examinations by appointment all year long. (Note: Anesthesia free dentistry is inadequate and hazardous to the periodontal health of your pet.)

Proper Dental Care is essential for the overall health of your pet.

- Signs of dental disease include bad breath, eating slowly or differently, yellow/brown teeth, red or bleeding gums, and drooling.
- Dental disease adversely affects heart, liver, and kidney health.
- Dental disease is painful for your pet.
- Good dental health helps your pet live a happier, healthier, and longer life.

Wellness Lab Testing / Other Lab Testing: The best way to get a more comprehensive picture of your pet's overall wellness is to do a lab panel every year. This lets us get a clearer picture of how well things are functioning on the inside of your pet, and helps to catch treatable issues earlier. We recommend a complete wellness appointment to include a Life Stage Wellness Panel (LSP) at 3 to 4 months of age and at every annual wellness appointment thereafter for the life of your pet. Based on the age of your pet (puppy/kitten, adult, or senior), we will recommend the appropriate Life Stage Panel. The Life Stage Panels include recommended blood, fecal and urine testing, as well as annual heartworm testing when appropriate.

The Life Stage Panel for Senior Pets is the most comprehensive blood work panel, and includes additional tests needed annually for dogs and cats with thyroid disease and for pets on long term pain medications.

- We do a thorough physical examination, but we cannot see inside your pet.
- Annual Bloodwork helps establish your pet's individual normal ranges and in many cases we can use lab trends to detect disease at early onset, before your pet shows any symptoms.
- Early detection of disease means more options for treatment.
- Many common diseases can easily be detected with yearly lab testing.
- Life Stage Panels help your pet live a Happier, Healthier, and Longer Life.

Labs needed for Long Term Medications / Conditions:

Addison's Disease: annual LSP

Chronic Kidney Disease: Annual LSP

Cushing's Disease: annual LSP and ACTH Stim

Diabetics: annual LSP and Fructosamine level

Heart Patients: Annual LSP

Pain Medications- long term: annual LSP or NSAID panel

Seizure Patients: annual LSP and blood levels for seizure medications they are on. (Phenobarbital, Bromide, Zonisamide)

Thyroid patients: annual Total T4, LSP includes this test

Scheduling Ahead—6 months/12 months: We will ask you to schedule your next appointment with us while you are here for this appointment. Scheduling ahead is much more efficient than a reminder system, even if you must reschedule close to the time of your next appointment. Since our pets age approximately 7 years for every year of life, we recommend annual examinations for adult pets, and a senior exam every 6 months for pets over 7 years old.