



Your Pet. Our Priority.

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Preventive Care- Dogs

We strongly believe that the best way to keep your pet happy and healthy throughout their life is by following a Preventive Care Plan developed together with your pet’s veterinarian, and tailored for your pet.

Though each animal is an individual and needs to have their overall health and risk factors evaluated by their veterinarian, we do have some general health guidelines for Preventive Care. The chart below shows the recommendations according to age, followed by an explanation of each of the items.

DOGS	
Less than 10	Age 10 & Older (Senior)
Annual Preventive Health Exam	Annual Preventive Health Exam
Year round flea prevention	Year round flea prevention
Tick control if exposure present	Tick control if exposure present
Year round heartworm prevention	Year round heartworm prevention
Annual heartworm test and fecal test if not on prevention	Annual heartworm test and fecal test if not on prevention
Core Vaccinations (DHPP/Rabies)	Core Vaccinations (DHPP/Rabies)
Elective Vaccinations (Bordetella, Lepto, Rattlesnake) if at risk	Elective Vaccinations (Bordetella, Lepto, Rattlesnake) if at risk
	Annual blood and urine panel: (\$160-\$240)
**Large breeds may be considered seniors at 8 yrs	

Annual Preventive Health Exam:

During the Preventative Care Exam, the doctor will perform a complete “nose to tail” examination. They will check the eyes, ears, nose, throat, oral cavity and teeth, listen to the heart and lungs, palpate the abdomen, examine your pet’s skin and coat, and more. Routine examinations give us an opportunity to develop a picture of your pet’s overall health, and the information can help the doctor treat any future medical problems more appropriately.

This exam should be performed each year at a time when your pet is in good health. This is also an opportunity for you to ask general or specific questions about your pet. Use our Preventive Care Visit Worksheet to help gather your thoughts and questions about your pet’s health, and to help you get the most out of your visit. An open discussion between you and your pet’s doctor plays a vital role in your pet’s health.

Parasite Prevention

Your veterinarian will help you evaluate your pet’s exposure and environment to develop a parasite prevention program that is right for your pet and your household.

Fleas: If it’s not enough that fleas cause itchy bumps when they bite your pet, they can also give tapeworms to your pet. We recommend that your pet be on a monthly flea prevention- all year round. In our mild climate, there is no “off season” for flea infestations.



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Ticks: If your pet's lifestyle puts them at risk for getting ticks, we recommend that monthly tick prevention also be part of their year round care. Tick bites can give your pet infections like Lyme disease that can be transmittable to humans.

Heartworm & Intestinal Parasites: Monthly heartworm prevention should also be part of your pet's year round care. Heartworm is transmitted to dogs through mosquito bites, and is fatal if untreated. Heartworm prevention also controls many intestinal parasites. If your dog is not taking a regular monthly parasite preventative, then your dog should be tested for heartworms (a blood test) and intestinal parasites (a fecal test) every 12 months.

Vaccinations

Core Vaccinations: Vaccines are critical in preventing Canine Distemper, Parvovirus, Rabies, and other diseases in dogs. Your dog should be up to date on these immunizations.

Elective Vaccinations: If your pet's risk factors indicate it, your doctor may recommend Bordetella, Lyme Disease or Leptospirosis immunizations as well. There are even effective vaccinations that reduce the risk of death in dogs bitten by rattlesnakes- for those dogs with increased risk of rattlesnake exposure.

Senior Pets

If your dog is 10 years old or older, then he is considered a senior. Large breed dogs may be considered seniors at 8 years. We believe it is important to screen pets for serious health problems ahead of time, rather than wait for obvious signs of illness to develop at later stages. That's why we recommend that senior pets have a blood and urine panel run each year. And regular Preventive Care Exams throughout a pet's lifespan will help us establish a baseline so we can track health changes as your pet ages.