



YourPet. Our Priority

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Annual Preventive Care Visit

What is an Annual Preventive Care Visit?

The Annual Preventive Care Visit is a key component of your pet's overall healthcare. It should be performed each year at a time when your pet is in good health, allowing the doctor to focus on a number of important factors in establishing or adjusting the overall care plan for your pet. Factors such as diet, lifestyle, and behavior can be thoroughly evaluated, and any topics of concern you have or areas that need improvement can be addressed.

During the Preventive 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. This information allows us to establish a healthy baseline "normal" for your pet, aids us in identifying medical problems at an early stage, and helps us treat any future medical problems more appropriately.

Performing annual diagnostics such as blood panels, urine analysis, and intestinal parasite screenings are extremely valuable tools in identifying medical problems even before your pet shows any symptoms. Our pets can't always tell us how they are feeling, and they may not feel anything in the early stages of many treatable diseases. Diagnostic screening profiles are the easiest and best way to get an overall picture of your pet's health, and to track any changes over time. This allows for earlier, less costly treatment options, and helps us to keep your pet as healthy as possible- for as long as possible.

How can I prepare for this visit?

An open discussion between you and your pet's doctor plays a vital role in your pet's health. Take advantage of your doctor's knowledge and experience, and allow them to tailor their advice to your pet's individual needs.

You can use this worksheet to gather your thoughts and questions in preparation for your Annual Preventive Care Visit. Have you noticed any changes in your pet during the last year? Some possible topics you may want to discuss with your doctor during this visit include:

Diet:

- Brand, form (kibble or canned), and quantity of food you feed
- Your pet's normal appetite level (picky, good eater, always acts starving)
- Treats you give- and the benefits they can provide or the dangers they pose
- People food your pet eats

Lifestyle:

What kinds of environments does your pet live in or visit?

- Inside all the time
- Outdoors, always supervised

- Outdoors, unsupervised at times
- Pet resort or kennel
- Groomer or dog/cat shows
- Around town (car/walking)
- In the foothills
- To mountain areas
- To rural areas
- Internationally
- Around lakes, rivers, streams

Behavior/Training:

- Are there any behavioral issues you are having with your pet?
- Is your pet house trained? Any “accidents” in the last year?
- Is your pet comfortable socializing with other pets, people, and children?
- How is your pet’s energy level? Do they have enough exercise/stimulation to keep them happy and healthy? Would you like some advice on how to provide more?

Parasite Prevention:

- Is your pet on monthly heartworm and flea preventative?
- Have you seen any fleas or ticks on your pet within the last year?
- Are there any children, expectant mothers, or immune-compromised people exposed to your pet?

Dental Health:

Which best describes your pet’s mouth?

- Great
- Some calculus (tartar)
- Some calculus (tartar) and red gums
- Really bad odor
- I never look

