



## Wellness Care for Adult Pets

Wellness care refers to:

- Wellness exams (once or twice a year)
- Annual blood work
- Examining fecal samples to check for parasites
- Preventive vaccinations

When you consider that pets age roughly seven years for every one year people age, bringing your pet in for an exam twice a year would be equivalent to you seeing your doctor once every 3 1/2 years.

### About our exams

What we are screening for, in addition to general good health, is the early detection and treatment of diseases and disorders such as hypothyroidism (too little production of thyroid hormone) or hyperthyroidism (excess production of thyroid hormone), early kidney or liver disease, presence of dental disease, etc.

The earlier we catch these or other problems, the better the chances are that your pet will live a longer, healthier life.

### Dental care

The importance of routine dental care cannot be stressed enough. Proper dental care actually helps prevent many health problems as your pet ages. Our wellness exams always include a thorough examination of the mouth.

### Preventive care

When early tartar buildup is diagnosed, we can offer some preventive care. This might include one or more of the following:

- A dental diet designed to prevent tartar buildup
- A liquid that can be added to drinking water and has an enzymatic action to slow down tartar buildup
- Toothbrush and toothpaste kits
- Other products that help keep the teeth clean



## Dental cleanings

Once tartar has noticeably accumulated on the surface of the teeth, the next step is a professional dental cleaning. Even the most obedient pets won't lie back and keep their mouths open, so this procedure needs to be done under general anesthesia. This means your pet will get to spend the day with us and go home late that afternoon with sweet-smelling breath and clean, healthy teeth and gums.

Delaying or abstaining from dental cleanings can have drastic implications on your pet's overall health. As tartar builds up, abscesses may form along the gum line causing infection. Left unattended, the infection can enter the blood stream, leading to health problems and potentially prove fatal.

## Weight control & joint care

### Weight control

Maintaining your pet at a healthy weight helps prevent or minimize a variety of health risks including arthritis, joint problems, diabetes, heart disease, and breathing problems.

Healthy weight is achieved and maintained through a balanced diet and exercise. If your pet is overweight, our veterinarians can create a weight-loss plan specific to your pet's individual needs. In addition to reducing food and increasing exercise, we have other options such as prescription diet foods and weight-loss medication.

### Joint care

Older pets frequently suffer from arthritis and joint pain. Proper joint care can increase your pet's quality of life. In addition to maintaining a healthy weight, we offer several supplements for joint health. We also have prescription diet foods to help keep joints healthy.

Please consult your veterinarian about optimal weight, exercise, nutrition, and possible medications for your pet's needs.