

Annual Health Screening Recommendations

All pets require an annual **Physical Examination**. This exam provides a baseline for what is normal for your pet, and allows for early detection and monitoring of problems such as weight gain, dental disease, and skin problems.

At your pet's annual exam, vaccinations against various common diseases will be recommended. Recommendations are made based upon your pet's age and lifestyle.

Vaccinations for Puppies and Dogs

All dogs require the following vaccinations:

Canine Distemper (DA2P)-The first vaccine is done when the puppy is 6-8 weeks old. It is then boosted every 4 weeks until the puppy is 18 weeks old. After the initial vaccination series, dogs are boosted at one year of age, and revaccinated annually or as recommended.
Canine Parvovirus (CPV)- The first vaccine is done when the puppy is 6-8 weeks old. It is then boosted every 4 weeks until the puppy is 18 weeks old. After the initial vaccination series, dogs are boosted at one year and the revaccinated annually or as recommended.
Rabies-This vaccine is first given when the puppy is at least 12 weeks of age. It is then boosted a year later, and given every three years afterwards. This vaccine is required by law in New York State.

Depending upon your dog's habits and lifestyle, these vaccines may be recommended:

Lyme-Initially given as a series of 2 vaccinations given 4 weeks apart, and then administered annually. This vaccination is recommended for dogs living in areas of high tick exposure, such as those living in rural areas or who take frequent visits to parks and places with high grass.
Leptospirosis-Initially given as a series of 2 vaccinations given 4 weeks apart, and then administered annually. This vaccination is recommended for dogs living in areas with a high risk of exposure to the leptospirosis bacteria (usually the same dogs who are recommended for the Lyme vaccination) although some kennels require this vaccine for boarding.
Bordatella-Given annually. Recommended for dogs who require frequent grooming and usually required by kennels prior to boarding.

Vaccinations for Kittens and Cats

All cats require the following vaccines:

Feline Distemper (FVRCP)-Initial vaccination at 6-8 weeks of age, then boosted every 4 weeks until 16 weeks of age. After the initial series, this vaccine is boosted at one year of age, and then given annually or as otherwise recommended.
Rabies- This vaccine is first given when the kitten is at least 12 weeks of age. It is boosted a year later, and given every three years afterwards. This vaccine is required by law in New York State.

Depending upon your cat's lifestyle, the following vaccine may also be recommended:

FeLV-Initially given as a series of 2 vaccinations given a month apart, then administered annually. This vaccine is recommended for outdoor cats, or indoor cats who live with a feline leukemia positive housemate.

Vaccinations for Ferrets

All ferrets should have the following vaccines:

Canine distemper-Initially a series of 2 vaccinations given 4 weeks apart, then administered annually.

Rabies-Initial vaccination is given at 12 weeks of age, and then administered annually.

Annual fecal exams-Recommended for both dogs and cats, performed to detect gastrointestinal parasites.

Annual Heartworm testing-Recommended annually for dogs to detect a mosquito borne parasite. Heartworm disease can be prevented in dogs with a negative test by giving monthly medication.

Spay/neuter- If you are not planning on showing your pet, it is recommended that they be surgically sterilized. Early spay (females) or neuter (males) surgery can prevent diseases such as pyometria (infection of the uterus,) and cancer of the mammary glands or testicles.

Dental care-Usually annually for many dogs and cats. A dental exam is part of the annual physical examination. Dental cleanings will be recommended as needed. Pets require the same dental care as people, and their dental cleanings are very similar except they are performed under general anesthesia.

Geriatric health profile-Blood tests (a complete blood count and blood chemistry for dogs and cats, and additional tests for thyroid function for cats) are recommended annually for dogs and cats older than 7 years of age. These tests provide a normal baseline for your pet, and can detect changes in organ function. These tests are used to detect and monitor potential health problems before they cause clinical signs of disease.

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