



## Yearly Cat Health Needs

### **Physical Exam**

The yearly physical exam is the single most important service you can provide your pet to extend their life. Early detection of diseases is the key to treatment and cures.

### **Vaccines**

Routine vaccinations are necessary to prevent serious diseases. New studies have shown that some of the vaccines last longer than previously thought; our doctors are paying close attention to this and will give the vaccines at the proper intervals according to current knowledge.

#### **Vaccines every cat should have**

*The FVRCP vaccine protects against the first 3 disease/viruses)*

*Rhinotracheitis-* This is a herpesvirus causing severe upper respiratory and eye infections.

*Calicivirus-* This upper respiratory virus can cause severe infections of the mouth, eyes and lungs.

*Panleukopenia-* This is a fatal virus that attacks the white blood cell and causes severe vomiting and diarrhea. It is highly contagious.

*Rabies-* This fatal and untreatable viral infection can potentially spread to humans. The initial vaccine is good for one year and subsequent vaccines last 3 years. This vaccine is recommended for indoor and outdoor cats to protect you and your cat in case it bites someone (the only test for rabies is to euthanize the animal ).

*Feline Leukemia (FeLV) -* This is a highly contagious, deadly, cat only virus that suppresses the immune system.

All outdoor and indoor cats should have this vaccine.

### **Fecal**

Yearly fecal flotation to look for intestinal parasites is needed. This test will check for intestinal parasites that affect your cat and sometimes can be transmitted to people. Between 1-3 million people in the USA are infected each year with parasites that pets can carry. Our Wellness blood profiles include a fecal test.

### **Blood work**

Your pet needs yearly blood panels to screen for infection and disease of the organs that the doctor cannot detect on examinations. This may allow us to detect disease before it becomes advanced and increase the success in treating the problem.

### **FeLV/FIV tests (Feline leukemia virus and Feline immunodeficiency Virus)**

All new cats or kittens should have a blood test for these 2 viruses for which there is no treatment. Cats infected with FeLV may only live for a few years (even though they act healthy initially) and transmit the virus through grooming and sharing water bowls. Cats with FIV can live a normal lifespan but may be more susceptible to infections and can spread the virus through bite wounds.



### **Flea control**

Year-round treatment with a topical flea medicine like Revolution Plus® will prevent your pet's and your environment from becoming flea infested. This product also protects against ticks, mites, roundworms, hookworms and heartworms.

### **Dental Health**

75% of cats over the age of 3 have periodontal disease. Infection around the teeth can spread to the heart and kidneys as well as causing loose teeth that must be extracted. Brushing your pet's teeth, and periodic cleaning and polishing under anesthesia can treat periodontal disease and prevent loss of teeth

### **Nutrition**

25% of pets are in the United States are overweight. Obesity can predispose your pet to diabetes, arthritis, and back problems. A recent study also showed that pets that are a normal weight live 2 years longer than overweight dogs. We will let you know if your pet needs a special diet.