



Yearly Dog 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.

Vaccines every dog should have

Distemper- Serious and often fatal infection of the respiratory, neurologic and gastrointestinal systems.

Hepatitis/Parainfluenza- These viruses which cause liver failure and respiratory infections are included with the distemper vaccine (DHP).

Parvovirus- Causes vomiting and bloody diarrhea and, while treatable, is easily prevented.

Leptospirosis (Lepto)- This bacterial infection causes liver and kidney failure. There was an outbreak in San Diego in 2020.

Bordetella- ("Kennel Cough") This easily transmittable respiratory infection can be spread through boarding, grooming, doggy daycare, dog parks or meeting other dogs while walking in the neighborhood. An oral vaccine to prevent the infection is given yearly/.

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.

Vaccines some dogs should have

Influenza- (Canine Flu) This viral disease causes signs similar to kennel cough. The vaccine is required by many boarding kennels and doggy daycares.

Fecal

Yearly fecal/stool check to look for intestinal parasites is needed. Nationwide, 34 percent of dogs are infected with intestinal parasites. Between 1-3 million people in the USA are infected yearly by parasites that pets can carry.

Wellness Blood work

Your pet needs yearly blood panels to screen for infection and disease of the organs that the doctor can not detect on examinations. This may allow us to detect disease before it becomes advanced and increase the success in treating the problem. The wellness panel includes a heartworm test and fecal check for parasites.

Heartworms

Dogs are susceptible to heartworms, which live in the arteries around a dog's heart and are transmitted by mosquitoes. This is becoming an increasing bigger problem in the San Diego area. A simple blood test can diagnose this life-threatening infection and a tasty chewable tablet called Simparica Trio given monthly will prevent your dog from being infected. Due to the seriousness of the disease, a yearly test is performed to ensure the medication is working.



Flea and tick control

Year-round treatment with Simparica will prevent your pets and your environment from becoming flea infested.

Dental Health

85% of dogs over the age of 4 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, using dental chews (such as **Oravet chews**) and periodic cleaning and polishing under anesthesia can treat periodontal disease and prevent loss of teeth.

Nutrition

25% of pets 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.