

PREVENTATIVE CHECK LIST CATS

INDOOR ONLY LIFESTYLE

- Spay/Neuter**-You should have your cat spayed or neutered unless you have a sincere interest in breeding qualifying show standard cats. Remember that thousands of unwanted kittens and cats are euthanized each year at animal shelters. So please, think twice before allowing the birth of another litter of kittens.
- Microchip**- Microchipping allows for the best chances of reuniting with your companion if your pet were to get lost or stolen.
- Annual exam**- Even if your pet is not showing obvious signs of disease, annual exams allow for veterinarians to catch and/or treat disease early. Examples of diseases that can be caught and managed during a physical exam include: heart murmurs, cataracts, obesity and dental disease to name a few.
- Vaccines**- CORE vaccines recommended for all cats are FVRCP and Rabies. Depending on your cats/kittens age and lifestyle additional vaccines may be recommended (ask to see feline vaccine handout).
- Deworming**- Yes, even indoor cats can get intestinal parasites. Cockroaches, mice and flies all can carry roundworm eggs, and since cats are natural hunters, they will hunt them. Another source is potting soil; greater than 15 percent of commercial potting soil contains roundworm eggs. They can migrate and encyst in the muscles. In female cats the encysted larvae will start development during pregnancy and pass across the placenta or through the milk to kittens. Roundworms and hookworms can cause problems in humans, especially children, whose play habits and attraction to pets put them at increased risk. Infection in both pets and people can be prevented by well-timed prophylactic deworming treatment of pups or periodic preventive treatment of older pets.
- Intestinal Parasite Exam**- The only way to identify and treat infected pets is to test them periodically for evidence of infection. Testing for parasites helps identify zoonotic parasites that can pose a risk to children and other family members. Although some pets infected with intestinal parasites develop diarrhea or other clinical signs, many pets don't show any signs at all. Fecal flotation and Giardia testing are helpful for identifying infected pets.
- Early detection blood work and urinalysis**- Waiting until your pet is sick before running blood work may be too late. Running blood work while your pet seems healthy allows your veterinarian to detect any abnormalities or trends towards disease sooner.
- Flea prevention**- Fleas jump from one host to another and will happily hitchhike into your home on clothes or shoes. The common flea transmits a number of zoonotic agents, including those that cause cat scratch disease, murine typhus, flea-borne typhus, bubonic plague, and tapeworms. Ingestion of infected fleas by children has resulted in development of adult *D. caninum* (tapeworm) in a large number of pediatric cases. For these reasons and more it is important to keep your pet on a monthly flea preventative that has been extensively tested and approved by the FDA.

INDOOR/OUTDOOR LIFESTYLE

WE RECOMMEND WHAT IS LISTED UNDER INDOOR LIFESTYLE IN ADDITION TO THE FOLLOWING:

- Annual FELV/FIV testing**- Testing for FELV and FIV should be performed annually.
- Annual FELV vaccination**- Vaccinations should be given to cats at risk of contracting FELV, namely all cats going outdoors and cats that are exposed to FELV positive cats or cats with an unknown health status.