

PREVENTATIVE CHECK LIST DOGS

- Spay/Neuter**-You should have your dog spayed or neutered unless you have a sincere interest in breeding qualifying show standard dogs. Remember that thousands of unwanted puppies and dogs are euthanized each year at animal shelters. So please, think twice before allowing the birth of another litter of puppies.
- 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 dogs are DAPP and Rabies. Depending on your dog/puppies age and lifestyle additional vaccines may be recommended (ask to see canine vaccine handout).
- Deworming**- Roundworm eggs can be spread by animals and insects such as; birds, roaches and earthworms. They can migrate and encyst in the muscles. In female dogs the encysted larvae will start development during pregnancy and pass across the placenta or through the milk to puppies. 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.
- Heartworm prevention**- Dog is a natural host for heartworms, which means that heartworms that live inside the dog mature into adults, mate and produce offspring. If untreated, their numbers can increase, and dogs have been known to harbor several hundred worms in their bodies. Heartworm disease causes lasting damage to the heart, lungs and arteries, and can affect the dog's health and quality of life long after the parasites are gone. For this reason, prevention is by far the best option, and treatment—when needed—should be administered as early in the course of the disease as possible.
- 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 murine typhus, 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.