

ANNUAL PET HEALTH CHECK

Our pets are important members of our families. However pets age much more rapidly than humans and they can't tell us when they are feeling unwell. This makes regular check ups for our pets the most important step in preventative health care.

If you love them - give them the care that they deserve!

A regular veterinary examination ensures health problems are detected and treated early and more effectively. This means a happier, problem free and longer life for our cat and dog family members.

What can you expect from a regular examination?

1 Weigh In

When you arrive at the clinic your pet will first be weighed. Once in the examining room your vet will assess the pet's general body condition, coat and skin health. Your vet may 'body score' your pet and if necessary estimate their ideal weight and discuss a weight management plan.

2 A nose to tail examination

- ✦ Examination of the ears, eyes and mouth, including the teeth.
- ✦ The chest will be auscultated. Your vet will listen to detect any irregularities in the heart or lungs.
- ✦ The abdomen will be palpated. Your vet will feel in the belly for changes in the organ.
- ✦ The limbs will be checked, including the joints, for any indication of arthritis.
- ✦ The entire body will be felt over and examined for irregularities or growths.
- ✦ Older dogs may also have a rectal examination to detect any anal growths and to check the prostate gland in the male.
- ✦ Any particular areas of concern you have related to your pet's health will be examined and discussed.

A more thorough examination will also include:

3 Blood and urine tests

These tests allow your vet to understand what the normal parameters are for your pet and also to detect any abnormalities that may not be detected through a physical examination.

The veterinary examination is also a great time for your veterinary team to assist you with any of those tasks that are difficult for you to do at home such as giving them worm pills or clip problem toe nails. Your vet can also check that your pet is on a suitable flea and worm programme.

Older pets and pets under treatment

As pets age a regular health check becomes even more important as the

likelihood of cancer, heart disease, organ disease, arthritis and other age related problems increase and disease can progress rapidly. A three to six monthly check ensures early diagnosis and treatment.

Pets that have already been diagnosed with health problems will also need more regular check-ups. This includes animals with conditions such as diabetes, heart diseases, kidney disease, hyperthyroidism or arthritis. More regular examinations are important to monitor the progress of disease and to ensure that the pet is on the optimum type of nutrition and medication for the best quality of life.

Preventative healthcare is about feeding and caring for our pets as well and detecting and treating any illness early. One of the most important steps in preventative health care is an annual veterinary examination.

