

First Page – Wellness Exams; what you need to know

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Your pet has been scheduled for a wellness exam; here is what you need to know.

A few questions we will ask:

- Does your pet have health insurance?
- Is your pet eating, drinking, urinating and defecating normally?
- What is your pet's current diet - brand and flavor; pictures are great!
- Does your pet have any known allergies?
- Have you had vaccines, parasite screening, blood tests done elsewhere?
- Is your pet on any flea and/or heartworm medication; if so, when was the last dose and what was the product?
- Is your pet on any medications or supplements?

Based on the age, species and life style of your pet we may recommend:

- Vaccine updates: Canine – Distemper; Hepatitis; Parainfluenza; Parvovirus; Leptospirosis; Bordetella; Influenza; Rabies. Feline - Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus and Panleukopenia (feline type of parvo); Leukemia; Rabies
- Internal parasite screening – stool test
- Blood work – heartworm test; wellness monitoring blood panels
- Feline Leukemia Virus and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus testing - blood test
- Dental care
- Microchip

Why do we recommend bloodwork?

We are passionate about preventative care. We believe that our patients benefit from timely and appropriate preventative care such as wellness monitoring blood panels, vaccines, heartworm preventatives, and flea/tick preventatives. Our recommendations are based on the American Heartworm Association and the American Animal Hospital Association guidelines, along with recommendations from experts in the veterinary industry. By performing annual blood tests, we may be able to see gradual changes in your pet's organ function before irreversible damage is done. Test results become part of your pet's medical records giving us important baseline values to compare to throughout their lifetime or in case your pet becomes ill.

What is a microchip?

A microchip is a tiny device the size of a grain of rice that provides your pet with permanent identification. This permanent identification gives them the best chance of returning home to you if they become lost. We recommend microchipping indoor pets as well. Your pet never goes outside you say;

you never know when an unfortunate event will happen; maintenance crew left the door left open, a fire your home, broken window, etc. We have seen it all!!! Statistics show that 1 in 3 pets will go missing, 90% of those pets will not return home without proper identification.

Packaged services that may benefit your pet:

- Puppy/Kitten Package
- Adult Wellness Package

A few links for reference:

- <https://www.avma.org/policies/aaha-avma-canine-preventive-healthcare-guidelines>
 - <https://catvets.com/guidelines/practice-guidelines/feline-vaccination-guidelines>
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Helpful Tips to Reduce Fear for your Pet's Appointment

Planning for the Appointment

To help ensure your pet's visit goes smoothly, we recommend preparing in advance. Here are some helpful tips for getting ready:

Visit Plans – What You Can Do to Prepare:

- Remove your pet carrier/leash from storage several days before the visit.
 - Familiarize your pet with their harness, collar, leash, or any other gear they may need.
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Carrier 101 – Ensuring a Comfortable Trip for Your Pet:

- Acquaint your pet with the carrier by offering food and treats around it.
- Place a blanket at the bottom of the carrier to make it more comfortable.
- Cover three sides of the carrier to create a more secure and calming environment.
- Avoid using the handle to carry the carrier, as it can cause it to swing and feel unstable. Instead, carry the carrier with two hands for better stability.
- Use pheromone sprays like Feliway (cats) / Adaptil (dogs) in the carrier, car, blankets, and even on your pet to help keep them calm.
- Ensure the carrier is level in the car to keep your pet comfortable.
- Play relaxing music in the car.
- Make sure there is proper airflow and temperature control for both the carrier and the vehicle.

Arrival at the Clinic:

- When walking your dog, use an appropriate leash length. A leash that is too long can make it difficult to control your pet. A fixed-length leash is best. **Please avoid retractable leashes.**
- If your pet is feeling stressed, we recommend letting them wait in the car or parking lot until it's time for their appointment. **Please be sure to call or come in to check in for the appointment.**
- For cats: Bring a towel to cover their carrier for added security. Cats also prefer elevated locations, so avoid placing their carrier on the ground. **If you set them on a seat or counter, be sure there is at least a 3-inch clearance from the edge. Some cats will move and knock themselves off the seat/counter.**

Additional Tips for Dogs:

- **Positive Reinforcement:** Dogs respond well to positive reinforcement, so be sure to bring their favorite treats to the clinic. You can also carry treats in your pockets during the visit!
- **Fasting Before Appointment:** **Do not feed your pet** a large meal immediately before the appointment to ensure they are more receptive to receiving positive food reinforcements. **If your pet has a condition that would put them at risk by not eating before the appointment, be sure to check with the veterinarian before withholding food. If you or your pet has any food allergies please alert the staff at check-in.**
- **Car Sickness:** If your pet experiences motion sickness, ask the doctor about anti-nausea medication before the visit. **Your pet has to have been examined in the last 12 months by one of our veterinarians in order to receive a prescription for anti-nausea medication.**
- **Behavioral Concerns:** If your pet is aggressive, fearful, or anxious, discuss the possibility of a **sedative** with your veterinarian prior to the visit. **Your pet has to have been examined in the last 12 months by one of our veterinarians in order to receive a prescription for sedatives.**
- **Music and Relaxation:** Help your pet relax by playing **calming music** both at home and in the car.
- **Desensitize your pet** by regularly touching their mouth, paws, and other sensitive areas to make their exam less stressful.

We look forward to seeing you and your pet! If you have any additional questions, don't hesitate to ask.