

Keys to a Healthy Senior Dog (7 years and older)



PHYSICAL EXAMINATION. A year between physical examinations for your dog is like seven years between annual examinations for us. We recommend examinations *every 6 months* to monitor and catch problems early

Senior Wellness Lab Screenings – The most important thing you can do for an older dog is yearly laboratory testing (similar in importance to a mammogram or prostate screening for people) to detect any health problems early. This allows any necessary treatment to begin as soon as possible, enabling your dog to maintain its optimal health. **A Complete Blood Count, Blood Chemistry Profiles, Electrolyte levels, Thyroid hormone level, and Glaucoma Screening tells us volumes about your cat's health and helps us help you keep him/her as healthy as possible**

Annual Vaccinations against:

- ❖ **Canine Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus**
- ❖ **Rabies vaccine (every 1 or 3 years)**
- ❖ **Giardia vaccine** – for dogs at risk
- ❖ **Bordetella bronchiseptica (Kennel Cough)** should be boosted every 6-12 months, depending on dog's risk
- ❖ **Lyme's Disease vaccine** – for dogs at risk

Annual Internal Parasite Examination and Strategic Deworming. Regular (every 3 months) deworming is recommended for dogs that go outdoors (even for short periods of time).

Annual Blood Parasite Test & Year-Round Heartworm Preventative

Dogs should be kept flea-free and not allowed to eat dead birds or rodents in order to prevent tapeworm infestation:

- ❖ **FRONTLINE TOP SPOT or K9 ADVANTIX Once Monthly**
- ❖ Regular House Treatment

Daily Exercise. Provide toys that your dog cannot swallow. Avoid string toys and sewing needles, which can cause injury to the intestinal tract.

Feed the highest quality Senior Dog food you can afford. Premium foods are much more digestible and result in a healthier pet and less stools. In addition, they can add up to 2 years to your dog's life. Always choose an AAFCO approved adult diet. **We recommend and sell Royal Canin brand foods because we feel this particular food provides the best and most scientifically advanced nutrition available for senior dogs.**

While you pet your dog daily, observe closely for any abnormalities, lumps, rashes, growths, fleas, etc.

Use a pet toothpaste twice weekly to aid in the prevention of dental disease. Examine the teeth regularly for the possible need for dental cleaning. Also, feeding CET Hextra Dental Treats once or twice daily also reduce plaque and tartar buildup. **Ask us about these products - they really work!** Tartar on teeth leads to kidney, liver, and heart valve infections, as well as loose, painful teeth. **Experts estimate that keeping your dog's teeth clean can add 2-4 years to his or her life!**



Have the dog's teeth cleaned when tartar begins to build up, or you detect bad breath or red gum lines. Pay particular attention to the "back teeth," where it often begins.

Grooming and Nail Trimming as Needed.

Obtain an **I.D. Tag** to place on your pet's collar. It may be the only way a lost pet reaches its family.

Prevent obesity in your dog by monitoring their weight every 3 months. If you think your dog is gaining weight, decrease his/her food amount by 10-20% and let your veterinarian know about the change in weight.

Don't hesitate to ask our advice. We are here to help your dog live a long, healthy life. Preventative health care is much more than just vaccination.