LIFE TIME WELLNESS

What is a LifeTime Wellness Preventive Care Program?

When you think of a traditional wellness plan, images of prepaid plans with certain procedures that must be performed come to mind. You may feel that you are betting with your money that you will need all of the services you are paying for in advance.

The fact is, that in order for us to have well-trained Doctors and staff, current diagnostic equipment, and to be able to provide our clients with high quality products and services, we must charge a price that makes sense. But instead of playing marketing games with prepaid plans, we will only charge you for services we feel are in the best interest of keeping your pet healthy.

With all of that being said, our LifeTime Wellness Preventive Care Program is all about giving you the information you need to make educated decisions about your pet’s healthcare. Each pet has different needs in order to stay healthy based on his or her species, age, sex and breed. Just like a person who ages from a baby to young adult to adult to senior to geriatric, your pet will have different needs throughout his lifetime.

Through our LifeTime Wellness Preventive Care Program, there are two main ways we can improve the quality of your pet’s life. Routine, complete physical examinations and diagnostic tests will help detect early problems before they become severe.

Why does my pet need a Comprehensive Physical Wellness Examination?

A comprehensive physical wellness exam gives your veterinarian the chance to evaluate your pet’s overall health and to detect problems before they turn into serious illnesses. Because your pet can’t tell you in words how he is feeling, your Doctor must rely on a thorough physical wellness examination, and your observations of your pet, in order to determine if your pet is truly healthy. Based on the results of the examination, your veterinarian may recommend further diagnostic tests such as radiographs (x-rays) and/or other specialized diagnostic tests (blood work).

As part of the comprehensive physical wellness examinations, we generally recommend routine blood testing, urinalysis, and other tests for all pets that are considered to be in their "senior years." We also will recommend annual diagnostic blood work and urinalysis before that time (from age one on up) in order to obtain baseline values, which can be used for comparison each year of your pet’s life.

For your pet, the process couldn’t be easier. We simply draw additional blood from the same location where we draw blood for his or her annual heartworm test. Drawing blood in this manner, for the heartworm test and other recommended blood work at the same time and with only one needle stick, minimizes your pet’s discomfort and maximizes our ability to discover most health issues before they can become serious health problems.
How often should my pet receive a Comprehensive Physical Wellness Examination?

Because your pet ages more quickly than you do, it is essential to his well-being that you take your pet to the veterinarian at least once every six months and possibly even more frequently as your pet gets older. Taking your pet to the veterinarian twice a year is the same as if you were to see your physician for a physical exam only once every three to four years. Because so much can change with regard to your pet's physical health in such a short amount of time, you can't afford to have your pet miss even one exam.

What will happen during my pet's Comprehensive Physical Wellness Examination?

PATIENT HISTORY
Your veterinarian will ask several questions about your pet's health history. Be sure to mention any unusual behavior.

Some areas of focus during this portion of your pet's physical exam include observations by you on excessive urination, drinking, panting or eating. Vomiting, diarrhea and lethargy should be discussed during this time as well. Other questions you can expect about your pet's health are:
• Does your pet have trouble getting up and down?
• Does your pet show any signs of weakness?
• Does your pet have exercise intolerance?

Notes will be made on your pet's diet and a variety of daily behavioral patterns.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION
During your pet's physical examination, your veterinarian will assess the following: weight and temperature, coat and skin, musculoskeletal system, lungs, gastrointestinal system, urogenital system, ears, neurological system, eyes, lymph nodes, heart, abdomen, and mouth, teeth and gums.

VACCINATIONS
Your pet’s medical record will be checked to see if any vaccinations are due for your pet. All vaccinations are individualized to the patient.

ANNUAL LABWORK AND OTHER RECOMMENDED DIAGNOSTIC TESTS
Occult heartworm tests and intestinal parasite examinations are performed on an annual basis. Other diagnostic tests, such as blood tests, x-rays, and EKG, may be recommended based upon your pet's history and physical examination findings.
RECOMMENDED TREATMENT AND MEDICATION TO GO HOME
These may be recommended based upon physical examination.

VITAL SIGNS AND NUTRITION
Your veterinarian, a technician, or an assistant will note your pet's temperature, pulse (heart rate), respiration rate, and body weight. Weight loss since your pet's last exam could indicate the early stages of a metabolic/endocrine disease such as diabetes, hyperthyroidism or kidney disease. Weight is an important consideration in the health of a pet, because an extra two or three pounds can mean the difference between your pet being fit and trim or obese. We recommend Hills or Purina Veterinary Diets. Ask us about appropriate diet and exercise for your pet.

EAR EXAM
You'll probably be asked if your dog or cat has been shaking his head or scratching at his ears or if you have noticed any odor coming from the ears. Your pet's deep, curved ear canals provide protection for the inner ear, but these canals are also a great environment for parasites, microbes (bacteria/yeast) and foreign objects. Your veterinarian will perform a thorough examination of the inner ear canal to make sure nothing appears out of the ordinary.

EYE EXAM
Many conditions, such as glaucoma, cataracts, high blood pressure, and allergies, are often discovered through eye examinations. A cat's past and present nutritional status can be assessed by examining the eyes. Injuries and ulcers of the eye also can be detected during examination. Your veterinarian will examine the inner structures of the eyes as well as their outward appearance.

DENTAL EXAM
Your veterinarian will check your pet's gums, teeth, tongue, and palate for tartar buildup, dental abnormalities, fractures, loose teeth, tumors, infections, and other problems. For example, a lack of red or pink color in the lining of the lips and gums could indicate anemia. You will learn how to care for your pet's teeth to prevent periodontal disease, which can cause bad breath and lead to tooth loss.

CARDIOVASCULAR & RESPIRATORY SYSTEMS
Your veterinarian will use a stethoscope to listen to your pet's heart and lungs. The early signs of heart disease such as irregular heart rate and pulse quality, heart murmurs and moist lung sounds are often recognized during our comprehensive physical wellness exam. If heart disease is suspected, other diagnostics such as radiographs and blood work may be recommended to confirm and evaluate the extent of the disease so that appropriate treatment can be started.
URINARY AND REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEMS
Your pet's reproductive system may be examined for prostatic masses or inflammation/sensitivity of the prostate, swellings, abnormal coloration and discharges, abnormal testes (or testicles) and mammary tumors. If your pet has not been spayed or neutered, you and your veterinarian will discuss the many health benefits of surgery and whether it is recommended for your pet.

SKIN AND HAIR COAT EXAM
The skin is the body's largest organ and a good indicator of your pet's health. Your veterinarian will examine the condition of skin and hair as a means of assessing for allergies, infection, signs of autoimmune disease, lymph nodes and tumors. Your veterinarian will also check for fleas, ticks and other external parasites as well as any wounds while completing your pet's examination.

GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM
Your veterinarian will palpate the abdomen to detect irregularities such as enlarged organs, masses, or areas that are painful.

NEUROMUSCULAR SYSTEM
Your pet's behavior, stance, ambulation and alertness or attitude is evaluated along with cranial nerves, neuro-reflexes, coordination and balance to assess the central nervous and musculoskeletal systems. Legs and feet are also checked along with condition of joints and muscles.

PARASITES
We will also discuss your pet's exposure to fleas, ticks, heartworms, and intestinal parasites at some point during the exam. The protocol we will recommend depends on your pet's lifestyle, age and other factors.

If any abnormalities are found during your pet's examination, your veterinarian may recommend additional tests to diagnose or confirm a health problem.

Do not underestimate the importance of your pet's semi-annual wellness examination. Taking your pet to the veterinarian twice a year means you are helping your pet live a longer, healthier life.

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www.CPVH.com and Our Mobile App