

New Pet Health Checklist



Congratulations on your new housemate! Obtaining a new pet is a big responsibility. Now is the time to get your pet started out on the right paw. To start your pet out right, take your new family member to a veterinarian within the first few days that you bring him or her home. Your pet may be up-to-date on its vaccinations (shots) but may have a health issue that is unknown to you. It is important to establish a relationship with a veterinarian as soon as possible to keep your new family addition healthy. Opening lines of communication early with the pet health expert, your veterinarian, will allow you to enjoy a healthier, happier, well-adjusted pet.

Dogs and cats should be examined on a regular basis depending on their age and health needs. Please be sure to bring all of the information you have about your new pet and a stool sample to your veterinarian for your first visit and examination.



DOGS

Items to discuss with your veterinarian are many and include:

- Frequency of examinations**
 - Annual/semiannual/customized
- Spaying/Neutering** - disease & behavior issues
- Heartworm Disease**
 - Prevention
- Fecal parasite screening & deworming**
- Flea & tick prevention**
- Oral health** - a clean mouth keeps a pet healthy
 - Home care-teeth brushing, dental chews
 - Professional care-professional cleanings
- Identification** - 90% of lost pets without an ID are not returned
 - Tags/microchipping/licensing
- Nutrition** - you are what you eat
 - Life stage and indoor vs. outdoor dogs
- Exercise** - leashes/collars/harnesses/containment/activity
- Obesity prevention** - 40% to 50% of our pets are overweight
 - Lean pets live longer and with less aches and pains
- Behavior** - bad behavior causes pet relinquishment
- Grooming & bathing needs**
- Appropriate toys**
- Zoonotic diseases** - diseases that people share with animals
- Vaccinations** - a wide variety of factors will determine which vaccines are right for your pet. Below are some common vaccines to discuss with your veterinarian. You and your veterinarian can decide which vaccinations are appropriate for your pet depending on your pet's lifestyle and risk of exposure.
 - Rabies
 - Distemper
 - Parvovirus
 - Leptospirosis
 - Lyme Disease
 - Others

CATS

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 - Prevention
- Fecal parasite screening & deworming**
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- Oral health** - a clean mouth keeps a pet healthy
 - Home care -teeth brushing, dental treats
 - Professional care - professional cleanings
- Identification** - 90% of lost pets without an ID are not returned
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- Nutrition** - you are what you eat
 - Life stage and indoor vs. outdoor cats
- Exercise** - leashes/collars/harnesses/containment/activity
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- Behavior** - bad behavior causes pet relinquishment
 - While many cats can be trained to use a scratching post, you may wish to discuss declawing with your veterinarian
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 - Rabies
 - Distemper
 - Leukemia virus
 - Immunodeficiency virus
 - Others