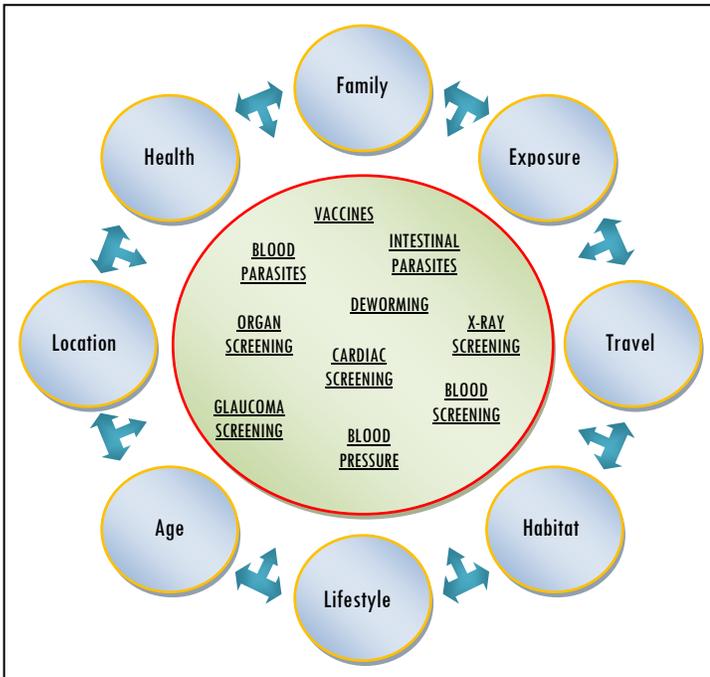




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## A PROGRESSIVE APPROACH TO PREVENTATIVE CARE



### **PREVENTATIVE CARE GRAPH AND RISK ASSESSMENT**

Our approach to preventative care is more than vaccinations, it's a revolutionary approach to protecting your entire family. After all, isn't your pet part of your family? We consider your pet to be special, an individual, not just another dog or cat. The graph at the left represents the multiple facets of our preventative care system and the many dynamics that affect your pet's risk of contracting disease and parasites and its overall health. We perform a risk assessment to determine exactly what vaccines, deworming and screenings your pet needs based upon age and its risk of contracting disease and parasites. If your pet only gets vaccines it's only getting a fraction of the preventative care it should. This makes your family vulnerable to disease and parasites and your pet susceptible to disease that can be easily managed if detected early.

### **No two pets are alike, should they be treated the same?**

#### **THE BENEFITS OF RISK ASSESSMENT**

- Elimination of unnecessary vaccines
- Addition of necessary vaccines
- Reduction in vaccine reactions
- Reduction in the spread of disease and parasites to people
- Reduction of the reservoir of disease and parasites
- Increased safety for your family and pet

#### **THE FACETS OF PREVENTATIVE CARE**

Preventative care involves treating your pet in the same manner that the medical

system provides proper preventative care for people. Routine vaccination is only one aspect of preventative care. Preventative care is about preventing disease and parasites that can affect your pet and be transmitted to people (zoonotic disease) and screening your pet for age related conditions that can be properly managed if caught early in the process. Your pet can't talk and it can't tell you when it is ill or in pain so age related screening is especially important to detect treatable conditions early. The following is a summary of our preventative care system so you can educate yourself about proper preventative care for your pet.

- **COMPREHENSIVE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION:** Just as it is in human medicine the foundation of preventative care is a comprehensive physical examination. Touching and listening to your pet can detect disease and conditions that can be easily be treated or managed when detected early. Animals can't talk and tell us how they feel so a comprehensive physical examination is the single most important aspect of extending your pets health.
- **VACCINATION:** All vaccines are not created equal and there are vaccines on the veterinary market developed over 40 years ago that are currently sold and used, many times because they are lower in cost. We believe in quality not lower cost. We carefully select our vaccines because we believe they are the best in efficacy, have the lowest reaction rate and are backed by the manufacturer. These vaccines often cost more but they deliver better protection and have lower reaction rates. We don't just give your pet all vaccines. We risk assess your pet and administer only the vaccines they need to maximize protection and minimize reactions.
- **FECAL (INTESTINAL PARASITE) SCREENING:** Not all parasites are worms and many parasites are transmittable to people, especially children, the elderly and people that are immunocompromised. Many common parasites such as Giardia and Coccidia are microscopic organisms that can only be found under magnification and are treated with antibiotics, not dewormers. Onsite fecal flotation testing is now old technology that is notoriously poor at detecting parasites, especially protozoal parasites. We utilize gold standard off-site high speed centrifugation fecal testing performed by major laboratories and is over a hundred times more accurate than fecal flotation testing.
- **STRATEGIC DEWORMING:** We deworm your pet at least annually and many times more frequently based upon risk of contracting common parasites that can be transmitted to people. Animals are particularly at risk for contracting parasites that are ubiquitous in the environment by smelling, rooting and consuming food and objects on the floor and in the dirt.
- **4DX/3DX (BLOOD PARASITE) SCREENING:** Sometimes all it takes is a single bite or prick by an insect or another animal for your pet to contract a blood parasite or virus. Many pets can be born with blood parasites or viruses that are dormant for years and go undetected because they do not cause any clinical symptoms until a terminal infection is present. We risk assess and test your pet at least annually for parasites that are often easily treatable and viruses which can often times be fatal to your pet.

### **HEARTWORMS**

Although heartworms are not endemic in Southern California, the number of heartworm cases increases every year. Why? It's because only a small percentage of pets are on heartworm prevention. This increases the reservoir of heartworms in our area which increases the number of pets that contract heartworm disease each year. Heartworms are difficult, risky and expensive to treat. Screen your pet for blood parasites regularly and use monthly heartworm prevention!

**PLEASE TURN OVER**

## **AGE BASED SCREENING**

Just as you age so does your pet except your pet ages 5 — 9 years in a single human year. Age based screening for treatable conditions are especially important because your pet can't communicate that it feels ill or is in pain. Often times the only way of determining age related conditions is to perform diagnostic screenings, such as blood and urine testing, radiographs and ultrasounds. In the same manner your physician performs screenings tests on you as you age we do the same for your pet based upon its "animal" age. Blood testing is the foundation of age related screening and often times easily treatable or manageable conditions are discovered. Typically the earlier an age related condition is detected the more treatable or manageable it is. As your pet ages we screen your pet for common conditions that most pets, regardless of breed, can acquire. The following is a summary of some aspects of Age Based Screening.

- **COMPLETE BLOOD CELL COUNT (CBC):** A CBC is a common blood test that examines red, white and platelet blood cell populations and is used to screen for infection, anemia and a variety of other blood disorders.
- **ORGAN CHEMISTRY PANEL:** Internal organs are difficult if not impossible to assess based upon a physical examination unless significant and severe disease is present. An organ chemistry panel measures enzyme levels of different organs within the body and may provide an early diagnosis of organ disease or dysfunction.
- **URINALYSIS:** A urinalysis is a common addition to blood testing and can confirm certain organ tests as well as provide the ability to assess kidney function and screen for kidney and bladder disorders.
- **THYROID TESTING:** As pets age they are at increased risk of developing thyroid abnormalities. Thyroid conditions are easy to treat with medical therapy provided the condition is discovered early.
- **BLOOD PRESSURE (BP):** As pets age they are at increased risk of developing hypertension. Hypertension is an easily manageable condition with proper medication provided significant and irrevocable cardiac and respiratory disease has not occurred.
- **ELECTROCARDIOGRAM (ECG):** An ECG is a minimally invasive method of screening for electrical cardiac disease and arrhythmias.
- **INTRAOCULAR PRESSURE (IOP):** Intraocular pressure checks for glaucoma which can occur insidiously without any external signs causing retinal detachment and blindness. Glaucoma is a treatable condition with either medication or surgery if discovered early and before ocular damage has occurred.
- **RADIOGRAPHS:** Radiology is a minimally invasive method to assess bone and soft tissue for disease and masses.
- **ULTRASOUND:** Ultrasound is a minimally invasive method of examining tissue and organ architecture to look for disease and masses that can escape detection during physical examination, blood testing and radiographs. The advent of lower cost and higher resolution devices has made ultrasound well within reach of most veterinary facilities and is an excellent instrument for discovering early disease.

## **WELLNESS PLANS**

We firmly believe that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure and we appreciate that people want the best veterinary care for their pet at a reasonable fee. We have created wellness plans that combine recommended preventative care services and age related screenings and allow clients to spread the cost of these services over a year by paying a low monthly fee. We value your business and your trust in our hospital so all of our wellness plans have a discount on services not included in the plan. Wellness plans are designed to make comprehensive preventative care affordable at almost any budget and extend the health of your pet. Consider one of our wellness plans for your pet, its high quality care for your pet at an affordable fee. Wellness plans are good for your pet and easy on your budget.

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF PARASITIC CONTROL**

Think that parasitic control is just about your pet? Think again. Many diseases and parasites are spread from animals to people and cause significant, life-threatening conditions, especially in children and the elderly. We strongly recommend blood and stool testing and strategic deworming. Why? To protect your pet and more importantly, your family. The following is a partial summary of some of the common diseases and parasites in pets and the conditions they can cause in people.

- **FLEAS:** Plague, bubonic plague, pneumonic plague, typhus and bartonella (cat scratch fever). **Fleas are the most common parasite of pets and they like people too!**
- **GIARDIA:** Diarrhea, gas, abdominal pain, nausea, anorexia, greasy stool, dehydration and chronic soft stool. **Difficult to find on stool tests due to their small size!**
- **ROUNDWORMS:** Visceral Larva Migrans can cause an enlarged liver, intermittent fever, weight loss, anorexia, coughing asthma, pneumonia. Ocular Larva Migrans can cause vision loss and blindness. **Roundworms are the most common parasite spread from pets to people!**
- **HOOKWORMS:** Anemia, abdominal pain, diarrhea, anorexia, lethargy, respiratory difficulty, cardiac enlargement, irregular heart rate, weight loss, protein and iron deficiency, stunted growth and mental retardation in children and occasional death. Cutaneous Larva Migrans can cause skin lesions, prurities (itchiness), inflammation and pain. Eosinophilic Enteritis can cause severe abdominal inflammation and pain. Hookworms can burrow through skin into the body. **The second most common parasite spread to people from pets, hookworms reside in the soil where pets defecate and are often difficult to find on stool tests due to their slow maturation, low and irregular egg production!**
- **TAPEWORMS:** Visceral Larva Migrans can cause an enlarged liver, intermittent fever, weight loss, anorexia, coughing, respiratory difficulty and pneumonia. Hydatid disease with tapeworm cysts in the liver and lungs. Abdominal pain, diarrhea, anal prurities (itching), Vitamin B12 deficiency, anemia hives and painful nodules. Although domestic pets can spread tapeworms to people, this is not common. **Why take the risk?**
- **TOXOPLASMOSIS:** Fever, swollen lymph nodes, muscle and joint pain, abdominal pain secondary to liver and splenic enlargement, abortion, stillbirth, children infected in utero may suffer blindness, neurological conditions, hydrocephalus, microcephalus and mental retardation. **Commonly found in cats!**
- **WHIPWORMS:** Anemia, abdominal pain, diarrhea, anorexia, lethargy, respiratory difficulty, cardiac enlargement, irregular heart rate, weight loss, protein, vitamin A and iron deficiency, stunted growth and mental retardation in children and occasional death. Rectal prolapse from straining. Eosinophilic Enteritis can cause severe abdominal inflammation and pain. **Another common parasite spread to people from pets, whipworms are often difficult to find on stool tests due to their slow maturation, low and irregular egg production**

## **OUR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Vaccinate your pet on a regular basis based upon your pet's risk of contracting disease.
- Routine stool and blood screenings for parasites based upon your pet's risk of contracting intestinal and blood parasites.
- Strategic deworming and broad-spectrum monthly antiparasitics such a Trifexis (dogs only, tablets) or Revolution (dogs and cats, topical) to help prevent your pet from contracting and transmitting parasites to people.

## **INFORMATION SOURCES**

We derive our information and recommendations from legitimate advisory, research and veterinary medical governing organizations. We do not utilize information from individual opinion and data collectors. All the information when possible is scientifically based and peer reviewed on a national and/or global scale which allows for proper discussion and research to provide a scientific approach to the best veterinary care possible. Veterinary medicine is a science and changes have far reaching consequences that can last decades and affect millions of animals. Due to the significant outcome on animal and human health, all decisions in veterinary medicine should have adequate scientific backing.

American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP)  
Morris Animal Foundation  
University of Cornell Health Center  
Veterinary Oral Health Council  
University of California at Davis Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital

American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) Canine Vaccine Task Force  
Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC)  
European Advisory Board on Cat Disease (ABCD)  
American Heartworm Society  
American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Biologic and Therapeutic Agents

**WE VALUE YOUR PET AND FAMILY! A PROGRESSIVE APPROACH TO PREVENTATIVE CARE WILL KEEP THE ENTIRE FAMILY UNIT SAFE!**