

# Pet Wellness Exam – The Annual Nose-to-Tail Wellness Test

You may think your pet needs to visit the veterinarian once a year for 'shots', but the annual health examination is so much more. It is the best way to save money and heartache by promoting wellness and catching problems early.

Regular wellness exams allow your veterinarian to evaluate your pet's general health and become aware of any health problems before they become a serious illness. Since your pet cannot vocalise its feelings, you must rely on regular physical examinations by your vet and your own at-home observations to assess your pet's health. Your veterinarian may also wish to perform diagnostic tests, including blood tests and/or xrays to evaluate your pet's health and to establish baseline values, which can be used for comparison as your pet ages.

Every year of a cat or dog's life is equivalent to five to seven human years, so it is important that your pet receives a wellness exam at least once a year. Many aspects of your pet's health can change in a short amount of time.

With a 'nose-to-tail' exam, your veterinarian will look, listen and palpate to examine for abnormalities. The vet will start with the nose and mouth, performing a dental exam, and then look closely at the face, eyes and ears, examining neurological function and looking at the skin for signs of allergy or infection. Around the neck he will palpate for abnormalities associated with the thyroid gland and lymph nodes. There are many lymph nodes in the neck, shoulder and armpit area and swelling of these can indicate infection or other disease.

Throughout the exam your vet will, when indicated, palpate the muscles and bones and examine joints, especially of the legs, looking for abnormalities and testing for reflexes or pain. When he gets to the chest area, he will listen to the heart. Often heart problems such as murmurs or irregular beats can be heard through a stethoscope. He will also listen to the lungs for any abnormal breathing patterns. He will then palpate abdominal organs such as kidneys, liver and intestines for lumps or other abnormalities and will watch for signs of pain or tenderness

Weight is an important consideration in your pet's health, so your pet should be weighed at every visit. If the vet finds that your pet's weight is increasing (or decreasing) he will recommend that you talk to one of our qualified vet nurses about the most suitable diet for your pet

Following the exam, your veterinarian may recommend additional testing to diagnose or verify a health problem if he finds any abnormalities. We also recommend an annual vaccination for your pet

**In addition** to the above Pet Wellness Exam, and vaccination, we can offer you a special **Pet Wellness Package**, which includes:

- Blood test, both chemistries and complete blood count
- Urinalysis, including crystal exam if warranted
- Chest xray
- Consultation
- Flea treatment and worming - all for the price of \$159.00.

Please phone on **4105169** to make your appointment for the **Annual Pet Wellness** exam and vaccination. If you would like to take advantage of the *special Pet Wellness Package*, please advise us of this. In that case you can drop your pet at the clinic in the morning and make an appointment later in the day to collect your pet and discuss the results of the package with your vet