



SFAH

Client Care Series

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Canine Preventative Healthcare Guidelines

All dogs should have a veterinary examination at least annually. For many dogs, more frequent visits may be appropriate. Decisions regarding specific frequency of visits should be made based on individual needs of your dog.

Health Evaluation:

Your dogs' Health Evaluation is determined from these categories:

- Life style and life stage
- Behavior
- Diet
- Dental assessment
- Pain assessment
- Body and muscle condition scoring

After your pet's doctor completes an evaluation of the above categories he/she will make an assessment of the following:

- Medical Condition
- Infectious and zoonotic diseases
- Parasite prevention and control
- Dental care
- Genetic, breed and age considerations
- Behavior
- Nutrition

Healthcare Plans:

Diagnostic Plan: Every dog should have the following:

- Annual heartworm testing in accordance with existing guidelines
- At least annual internal parasite testing

Customized plan based on assessment:

- Other diagnostic tests (including dental radiographs)
- Early disease screening tests
- Genetic screening tests

- Therapeutic Plan:** Every dog should receive:
- Year-round broad-spectrum parasite control with efficacy against heartworms, intestinal parasites and fleas
- Customized plan based on assessment:
- Tick control as indicated by assessment
 - Therapeutic recommendations
 - Dental recommendations
 - Behavioral recommendations
 - Dietary and feeding recommendations
- Prevention Plan:** Every dog should have or receive:
- Immunization with core vaccines in accordance with existing guidelines
 - Rabies virus
 - Canine distemper virus
 - Canine parvovirus
 - Canine adenovirus-2
 - Appropriate identification including microchipping
 - Reproductive and genetic counseling and spaying or neutering unless specifically intended for breeding purposes
- Customized plan based on assessment:
- Immunization with non-core vaccines in accordance with existing guidelines
 - Other preventative recommendations and counseling regarding zoonotic diseases
- Follow-up Plan:** Establish a plan for follow-up based on assessment and future care recommendations
Set expectations for next visit
- Documentation:** Thorough documentation of the patient visit

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