

# Semi-Annual Wellness Examinations

## The Key to Early Disease Detection and Successful Treatment

To provide your pet with the best possible care we are offering health maintenance services highlighted in the National Pet Wellness program ([www.npwm.com](http://www.npwm.com)). This program recognizes that dogs and cats age at about to 7 times the rate of people and that a 7 year old pet is like a middle aged person. To achieve the earliest detection and most effective treatment for medical problems of aging pets we will be scheduling semi-annual wellness and preventive care evaluations for 6 months after each senior pet's annual vaccination visit.

### Semi-annual Wellness Visit

- Admission questionnaire conducted by veterinary technician and list of any concerns you may have. Your pet will be admitted for the day.
- **Comprehensive physical examination by doctor.**
  - Components: General body condition and weight check, charting of lump and small tumors, listen to the heart and lungs, pulse evaluation, lymph node evaluation, abdominal palpation, oral examination evaluation of orthopedic health and check for dental and gum disease.
  - Evaluations: Excessive weight loss or gain, presence and changes of benign tumors or masses that may be cancers, presence of heart murmurs or abnormal heart rhythms and pulses, presence of enlarged lymph nodes or abdominal organs, presence of signs or arthritis and health of teeth and gums.
- **Fecal sample examination.**
  - Components: Microscopic examination of a fecal sample.
  - Evaluations: Presence of parasite eggs indicates infection by intestinal parasites that can be dangerous to both pets and people.
- **Blood screening.**
  - Components: (Serum chemistry, electrolyte and complete blood count.) Screening of organ function values and blood parameters.
  - Evaluations: Abnormalities of kidney or liver function. Metabolic disease like diabetes, or Cushing's syndrome. Changes in the balance of body chemistries. Anemia or signs of an immune reaction to infections.
- **Thyroid Screening.**

- Components: Evaluation of level of thyroid hormone.
- Evaluations: Over active thyroid in cats is associated with heart abnormalities, weight loss, vomiting and other medical syndromes. Low active thyroid in dogs is associated with lethargy, obesity, chronic problem including skin and ear infections.
- **Urinalysis.**
  - Components: Chemical and microscopic evaluation of urine.
  - Evaluations: Check for kidney function, presence of urinary tract infection or mineral crystals that may be a warning sign of bladder stone formation
- **Blood pressure determination.**
  - Components: Systolic and diastolic blood pressures are measured.
  - Evaluations: High blood pressure is associated with blindness, seizures, kidney and heart disease.
- **Electrocardiogram-** An additional test for patients where other screening test indicate heart abnormalities.
  - Components: An ECG is taken.
  - Evaluations: Quality and rhythm of the electrical activity of the heart.

Discharge consultation with doctor- An end of day appointment will be scheduled for you to pick-up your pet and a report card will be presented summarizing your pet's health maintenance examination. All abnormal findings will be listed and an action plan will be discussed for each abnormality.