

Life Long Health for Your Dog



We at Lee Veterinary Clinic are grateful that you chose our clinic to help care for your pet. Below are our recommendations to keep your pet healthy and happy for many years to come!

Vaccination Schedule:

Vaccinations are an important part of your pet's health. They prevent your pet from developing serious diseases, and also prevent risk of some diseases from being spread to humans. Each vaccine requires a slightly different timing of initial vaccinations to assure that your pet is fully protected. Below are the vaccinations we recommend for dogs:

- **Rabies:** (RV) This protects against a fatal neurological disease. It is extremely important to keep your pets up to date on rabies vaccination as it can be spread to humans as well. (Age: 12 weeks +)
 - Initial vaccination: 1 year immunity
 - After 2nd vaccine: 3 year immunity
 - Required every 3 years thereafter to maintain immunity
- **Distemper combo:** (DV) This combination vaccine protects against 4 viruses : distemper, adenovirus-2, parainfluenza, and parvovirus. These viruses cause a wide range of problems from irreversible brain damage, to life threatening intestinal infection. (Age: 5 weeks +)
 - Beginning vaccinations
 - Pet over 4 months:
 - Initial vaccine+ booster within 4 weeks: 1 year immunity
 - Pet under 12 weeks
 - Initial vaccine + booster every 3-4 weeks until 4 months old: 1 year immunity
 - If given again within 1st year: 2 year immunity
 - Required every 2 years to maintain immunity
- **Lyme :** (L) Spread by ticks, lyme disease can cause joint pain, lethargy, general soreness, and in some cases even kidney damage. (Age: 9 weeks +)
 - Initial vaccine+ booster within 4 weeks: 1 year immunity
 - Required every year to maintain immunity
- **Bordetella** (B) (kennel cough): This is a virus causing a contagious “honking” cough. We recommend this if your pet will be around many other dogs such as going to training class, grooming, boarding or dog parks. (Age: 3 weeks +)
 - Initial vaccine: 1 year immunity
 - Required every year to maintain immunity

Parasites:

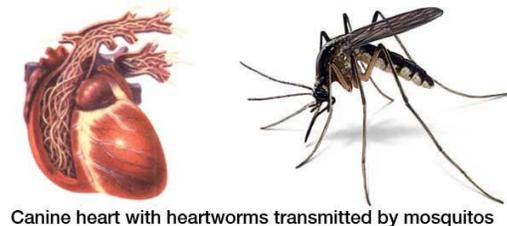
Intestinal Parasites:

- Including roundworms, hookworms, tapeworms and more. Adult pets are still at risk from ingesting rodents, birds, bugs or even just from being exposed to soil. We recommend checking a fecal sample and deworming your pet on a regular basis (yearly) for best health and to protect your family from exposure as well.



Heartworm:

- This parasite is carried by mosquitos and only requires one mosquito bite to infect your pet. The mosquito carries an immature worm which, once mature, moves to the heart and will ultimately cause heart damage and failure. If given every month, Heartworm preventatives (HWP) such as *Heartgard* or *Iverhart* will kill the immature worms before they can move to the heart. We recommend keeping your pet on a HWP at least 9 months of the year (April-November).
- We recommend a yearly heartworm test (HWT) as this would catch any possible infection before serious heart damage.
 - Pets over 1 year old will be **required** to have a HWT within the last 3 years to receive HWP. We don't require a heartworm test to start HWP in puppies under 6 months old, but it will be required at their 1 yr annual appointment to continue HWP.



External Parasites:

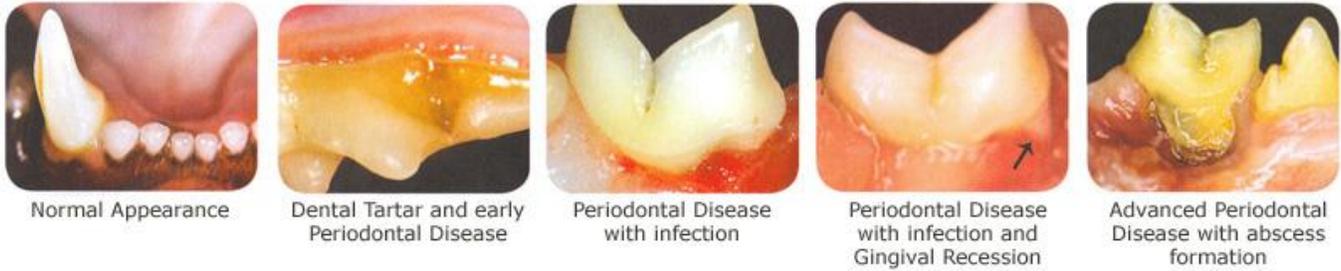
- Fleas and ticks can spread disease and internal parasites. Once established, fleas can seem near impossible to get rid of. We recommend using a tick and flea preventative such as *Frontline* or *Certifect* to protect your pet. We do not recommend over-the-counter flea powders/dips/collars ect., as we see more reactions and side effects from the chemicals used as well as the products do not tend to be effective.



Dental care:

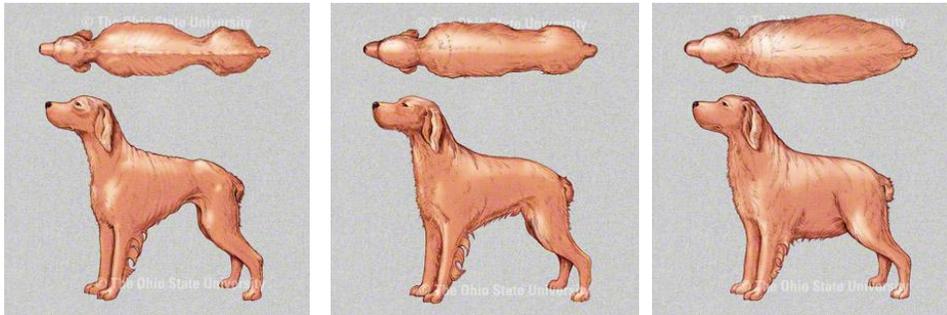
- Dental disease the **MOST** common disease in dogs and cats, and is commonly overlooked by owners. If unnoticed it continues until the tissues holding the teeth in the mouth are replaced with tartar and infection. These teeth are extremely painful and can cause abscesses within your pet's nose or skull.
 - Having a chronic infection in the mouth is just as unhealthy as having an infection on the skin, bladder or elsewhere on the body. The body can be so busy fighting infection that it will predispose your pet to other illnesses as well.
 - Pets are extremely good at hiding pain, and most continue to eat without owners noticing a problem. However after the dental disease has been addressed, most people report that their pet "hasn't played or acted this well in years" showing that the pet was likely in significant pain prior to the dental care.
- Prevention is very easy! It is as simple as a daily smearing of toothpaste on the teeth. The CET toothpaste has enzymes that prevent plaque from developing into hard tartar.
 - Some chews/treats can help with tartar control, but most are not effective and are just "well marketed extra calories." The most effective prevention is using enzymatic toothpaste daily.

- Once the hard tartar is established there is little you can do at home. At this point the best thing is to have a thorough dental cleaning and exam. During this procedure, your pet will be carefully monitored while under anesthesia and we will remove the tartar and determine the health of each tooth. Any teeth that have dental disease too advanced to stay will be removed at that time. Your pet will wake up with a clean, healthy mouth which will soon be pain free.



Feeding:

- Correct nutrition is very important for your pet's long term health. Studies have shown that even slightly obese pets have their lifespan shortened by 2 years, when compared to a lean pet.
- **Body Condition Score (BCS):** We rank fitness on a score from 1-9. Ideal is 4-5 with underweight being 1-3, and overweight 6-9.



- Underweight (left): → Visible spine or hip bones
- Ideal weight (middle): Visible waist from above and from side, ribs easily felt (maybe slightly visible on short haired dogs).
- Overweight (right): Loss of visible waist, ribs hard to feel, may have fat deposits over tail or sternum.

Spay and Neuter:

- Both of these procedures remove the reproductive organs from the pet. It prevents unwanted puppies, and complications from pregnancy and birth. It also has long lasting health benefits as well as a decrease in behaviors such as roaming, aggression and urine marking.
- Spaying females before their first estrous cycle ("heat") greatly reduces her chance of mammary tumors, ovarian cancer and uterine infection (all of which can be fatal and costly to treat). Giving birth to a litter can be dangerous to your female. Some breeds have a high rate of cesarean sections, which are expensive and can be risky.
- Neutering a male eliminates the possibility of testicular tumors and greatly reduces the chance of prostate problems. Neutering decreases the incidence of perianal tumors and hernias, which are commonly observed in older, unaltered males. Neutered males are less likely to try to escape a yard to find a female in season. This reduces the chance of them being hit by cars, getting into fights or becoming lost.
- The greater good: Many people are surprised to learn that nationwide more than 3 million cats and dogs are euthanized in shelters. Spay/neuter is the only permanent, 100-percent effective method of birth control for dogs and cats.

$1+1=67,000$

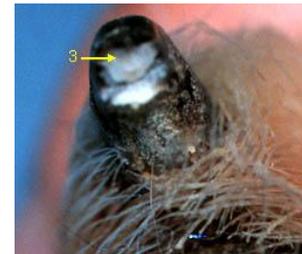
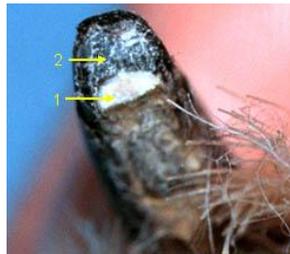
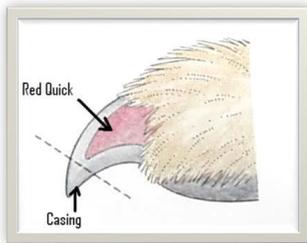
One female dog and one male dog and their offspring can produce 67,000 puppies in 6 years. The solution to the problem of pet overpopulation is for you to spay or neuter your dog.

Microchipping:

- Microchipping allows a form of permanent identification for your pet. It consists of placing a small microchip, which is about the size of a grain of rice, underneath their skin. The microchip is then able to be scanned and the number will correspond to your pet's information. If your pet is found wandering, without another form of ID (many animals slip their collars) then this may be the only way of finding your pet again. Shelters, rescues, and city and county animal controls use this method of trying to reunite pets with their owners.

Nail trimming:

- Trimming your pet's nails is quite easy but can take some practice. Ease your pet into the routine by handling the feet often and just clipping a nail or two at a time. Clip small pieces off and avoid clipping into the quick. The quick is where the nerve and blood vessels run. You can see the quick easily on white nails, but can also see a change on dark nails when you are approaching this area.



- As you cut off small pieces of the nail, look at the cut edge of the nail. The light tissue (1) is the curved bottom part of the nail. The mottled light and dark tissue (2) is the top part of the nail. As you cut the nail deeper, you will see a gray to pink oval (3) starting to appear at the top of the cut surface of the nail. This is where you should stop clipping.

Ear Cleaning:

- Keeping your pet's ears clean is the best prevention against potential health hazards such as ear mites, ear infections and wax build up (which in turn can be excruciatingly painful for your pet)
 1. The ear wash solution is squeezed into the ear canal, until almost overflowing.
 2. Your pet will likely shake its head as soon as the wash is inserted into the ear, shaking out some of the solution. Massage the base of the ear to distribute the wash solution throughout the ear canal. You should hear a wet "squishy" noise, which is the cleaner moving around loosening and collecting debris. Pets usually like this part.
 3. Use cotton balls to remove discharge from the inner side of the ear flap and ear canal. Q-tips can be used to clean the folds of the outer ear, but do not place them farther than you can see. Deep placement of a Q-tip can rupture the ear drum or can pack wax and other debris further into the ear canal, preventing medications from getting to the deeper parts of the ear canal.



Routine Bloodwork:

- If your pet becomes ill, we may recommend different tests based on your pet's symptoms. We use blood work of various types to help diagnose and screen for diseases, but it is also useful throughout your pet's life.
- When healthy: It's beneficial to check blood work when your pet is not feeling ill, as this gives us information on your pet's baseline levels and to screen for diseases that may be in early stages. These can be compared to the same values when your pet is not feeling well and gives us more information as to what is causing your pet's illness.
- Before surgery or anesthesia: Certain blood work can help us evaluate how your pet's organs are functioning. We use this information to make decisions on what drugs to use to make anesthesia or surgery as safe as possible for your pet.
- Aging pets: As your pet ages, it is ideal to screen for signs of early diseases such as liver disease or kidney failure. Many times we can start treatment before your pet becomes ill which allows a much better long term prognosis and the longest, healthiest life for your pet.

Thanks for choosing Lee Veterinary clinic for your pet's health care. Please feel free to call whenever you have questions or concerns.

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