



Feline Preventative Care Recommendations

Here at HVH we have established a high standard of care and, in doing so, are now recommending a more comprehensive approach to preventative care for your cat. During appointments, we understand this information can be a bit overwhelming. To assist with this, we are providing you with the following list of recommendations in regards to preventative care for your pet.

We look forward to working with you and your furry family to give them the best quality of care. We are always happy to discuss this information further, so please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

The HVH Staff

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Preventative Care Recommendations

BIANNUAL EXAMS

Cats age much faster than humans, which is why we've found that annual exams are sometimes not enough to ensure the maximum benefits of veterinary care. We strongly encourage consideration of the twice-a-year exam schedule for your pet, especially as they enter into adulthood. What this means going forward is that you will receive a reminder every 6 months to schedule a biannual wellness exam. This is also an effective way of separating out yearly preventative care, with one exam focusing on prophylactic care such as vaccines and flea/tick preventatives, and the second on proactive diagnostics such as wellness bloodwork and fecal testing. Biannual exams can also be a great way to get your pet more accustomed to veterinary visits.

VACCINATIONS

Vaccinations are an absolutely crucial element of veterinary care. They are divided into two groups: core and non-core. The core vaccines are the immunizations we encourage for all cats, while the non-core vaccines are encouraged on a situational basis.

CORE:

- **Rabies:** The rabies virus is a fatal infection of the neurologic system that is transmissible to all mammals, including humans. It is required by law to vaccinate every domestic pet against rabies.
- **FVRCP:** Commonly referred to as the "Distemper" vaccine, this includes protection against Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Feline Calicivirus, and Feline Panleukopenia. These constitute a variety of upper respiratory and intestinal diseases.

NON-CORE:

- **Feline Leukemia (FELV):** The Feline Leukemia vaccine is recommended for all outdoor cats that have a likelihood of encountering other cats. The vaccine protects against a hardy virus that once within a host, becomes a persistent infection that suppresses the immune system. In most cases, the disease is fatal. The virus can also lead to anemia as well as several forms of cancer.

ANNUAL DIAGNOSTICS

External exams can only reveal so much about your pet's health. Diagnostics are a crucial part of even the healthiest animal's annual check-up.

- **Wellness Bloodwork:** Annual bloodwork in the form of a chemistry panel and complete blood count, allows us to view trends in critical values such as liver and kidney function. It sets a baseline so we can better assist your pet should they become ill. Most imperatively, bloodwork can detect abnormalities or disease early on, especially in older animals.
- **Fecal Testing:** Some intestinal parasites do not manifest symptoms right away and many of the most common parasites such as giardia or hookworm are zoonotic, meaning they are transmissible to humans as well as other pets. Fecal testing is crucial for early detection, allowing for easier, more effective treatment.

YEAR-ROUND FLEA PREVENTATION

Fleas and ticks can cause animals and people discomfort and potential disease. Ingestion of flea eggs can lead to tapeworm infection and flea bites can lead to severe skin irritation and hair loss. Prevention against fleas and ticks is the most cost-effective and health-conscious method of avoiding these complications.

At HVH we carry several safe and effective products for cats:

- ***Bravecto:*** A monthly topical that kills fleas and ticks - and prevents flea infestations for up to 12 weeks.
- ***Revolution:*** A monthly topical preventative that in addition to protecting your cats against fleas, also guards against heartworm, roundworm, hookworm, and ear mites.