

# Annual Wellness Check Ups are Important!!!

Many veterinary clinics and hospitals in North America have designated October as Pet Wellness Month in order to raise awareness regarding the importance of health maintenance in animals. Top reasons to schedule your pet's annual wellness checkup today:-

1. On average animals age seven times faster than humans and major health changes can take place quickly;
2. It is recommended that you take your pet to the veterinarian for a wellness check at least once (equivalent to your going to the doctor/dentist once every 7 years), and preferably twice a year (equivalent to your going to the doctor/dentist once every 3 1/2 years);
3. Wellness exams are designed to evaluate your pet's current health profile and the status of its major internal organs;
4. A pet may lose up to 75% of kidney function before showing any visible signs of illness;
5. By performing complete blood work analysis your veterinarian may detect disease early including diabetes, kidney disease and anemia;
6. 1 out of every 11 pets appearing to be outwardly healthy showed abnormalities in blood work;
7. Testing a healthy pet provides a base line that will be stored in his/her medical history that can be used to track changes over time and to create a disease prevention program that right for your pet and the disease threats in your area;
8. The risk of many chronic diseases and ailments increases with age including cancer, periodontal disease, obesity, kidney disease, thyroid disease and diabetes;
9. One in four dogs will die of cancer – early diagnosis will assist in the development of a treatment plan at the early stages of the disease will ensure that you offer your pet the longest and best quality of life possible;
10. Listed below are some of the most important health screenings for cats and dogs although your veterinarian may recommend additional tests depending on your pet's health history and other factors:

## **i. Adult Dogs (1-6 years)**

Immunizations  
Parasite check  
Heartworm check  
Dental health  
Blood panel (CBC)  
Chemistry panel  
Urinalysis

## **ii. Additional Exams for Senior Dogs (7+ years)**

Osteoarthritis check  
Chest radiograph  
Thyroid check

## **iii. Adult Cats (1-6 years)**

Immunizations  
Parasite check  
Heartworm check  
Dental health  
Blood panel (CBC)  
Chemistry panel  
Urinalysis

## **iv. Additional exams for Senior Cats (7+ years)**

Osteoarthritis check  
Renal Disease Screen  
Thyroid check  
Blood pressure check

