Monitoring for potential health problems in your dog

Preventive care not only helps to detect disease in its early stages, when it is most likely to respond to treatment, but it also can help you avoid significant medical expense and risk to your pet's health.

Routine preventive care also helps your veterinarian establish normal baseline laboratory values when your pet is young and healthy. Even subtle changes from baseline values can help identify disease as your pet ages, long before they become apparent to you or your veterinarian.

Organ/System	Potential health risks	Possible result if left untreated
Teeth and mouth	Gingivitis, periodontal disease, oral cancer	Oral pain, tooth abscesses, tooth loss, systemic infection, cancer progression
Nose and throat	Inflamation/infection, bleeding, tumors	Progression of local infection, systemic infection, breathing difficulty, nosebleeds, cancer progression
Liver and gallbladder	Inflammatory liver disease, reaction to certain drugs and toxic substances, cancer, Cushing's syndorome, stones of the gallbladder and bile ducts	Jaundice, liver failure, anemia, bleeding disorders, neurologic signs, cancer progression, death
Kidneys	Acute and chronic kidney diseases, kidney stones, kidney infection, cancer	Irreversible kidney damage, kidney failure, high blood pressure, blindness, anemia, death
Heart and lungs	Heart muscle disease, leaky heart valves, irregular heart rhythms, heartworm disease, bronchitis, pneumonia	Poor circulation, fluid buildup in lungs and/ or belly, congestive heart failure, pneumonia, sudden death
Joints and bones	Arthritis, hip dysplasia, torn cruciate ligament in knee, degenerative back disease, immune-mediated disease, infectious disease (e.g., Lyme disease), cancer	Pain, reduced mobility, progressive disease, paralysis
Glands/endocrine system	Diabetes, thyroid disease, adrenal disease	Cataracts, blindness, wasting, hair/coat changes, hair loss, excessive thirst/urination, skin infections, collapse, death
Eyes and vision	Corneal ulcers, cataracts, dry eye, glaucoma, deformation and/or infection of eyelids	Pain, progressive blindness, loss of eye
Digestive/ gastrointestinal system	Intestinal parasites, intestinal blockage, other intestinal infections, inflammatory bowel disease, colitis, pancreatitis, cancer	Malnutrition (inability to absorb nutrients from food), wasting, chronic diarrhea, gas, abdominal pain, cancer progression, death
Skin	Allergies, fleas, mites, ticks, lumps, skin infections, ear infections	Hair loss, foul odor, vector-borne infections, worsening infections, hearing loss, cancer progression, death

For more information about preventive care, talk to your veterinarian—your best resource for information about the health and well-being of your pet.









Well-being

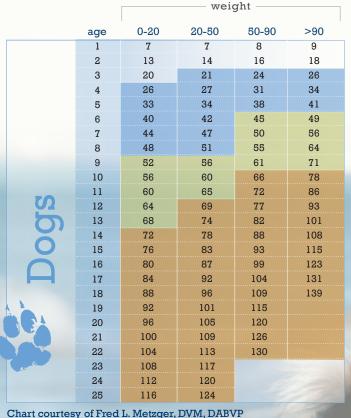


Preventive Care for Your Dog



Preventive care for your canine friend

Your pet's health changes with age, just as yours does. But, our pets actually age much faster than we do.



Do you know how old your dog is relative to you, or in "people years?" Use the chart (at left), based on your dog's age and weight, to find out!

Regardless of your pet's age, you play a key role in helping him combat illness and remain as healthy as possible. Remember, your dog cannot describe symptoms to you, but he will show you signs of disease or illness. Awareness of the signs of the most common diseases is one way to help reduce your pet's risk. It's a little scary to consider that 10% of pets that appear healthy to their owners and veterinarians during their annual visits have underlying diseases.¹

nart courtesy of Fred L. Metzger, DVM, DABVP

Color Key Adult
Senior

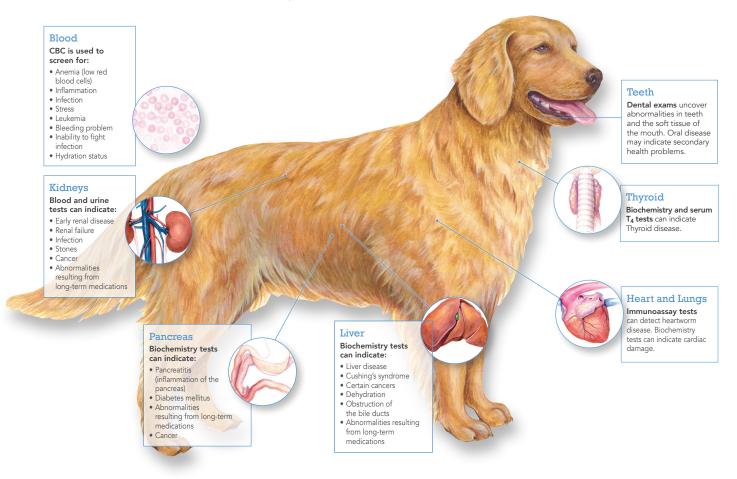
The top 10 signs your cat may be ill are:

1 Bad breath or drooling

Geriatric

- 2 Excessive drinking or urination
- 3 Appetite change associated with weight loss or gain
- 4 Change in activity level (lack of interest in doing things they once did)
- 5 Stiffness, difficulty getting up, or trouble climbing stairs
- 6 Sleeping more than usual or other behavior and attitude changes
- 7 Coughing, sneezing, excessive panting, or labored breathing
- 8 Dry or itchy skin, sores, lumps, or shaking of the head
- 9 Frequent digestive upsets or change in bowel movements
- 10 Dry, red, or cloudy eyes

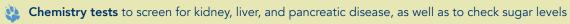
Testing can uncover hidden health problems in your dog



Early detection. Reduced risk. Peace of mind.

While the physical exam is important, the picture of your pet's overall condition is not complete without these diagnostic tests. Blood testing can frequently detect illness in your pet before any outward signs of disease can be seen. Testing gives veterinarians immediate insight not otherwise available.

Preventive care may include:



Blood parasite screening to identify if your pet has been exposed to vector-borne (e.g., heartworm) or other infectious diseases

Fecal tests to rule out intestinal parasites

Complete blood count (CBC) to rule out blood-related conditions

Electrolyte tests to ensure your pet isn't dehydrated or suffering from an electrolyte imbalance

Urine tests to screen for urinary tract infections and other diseases, and to evaluate the kidneys' ability to concentrate urine

Thyroid test to determine if the thyroid gland is producing too little thyroid hormone

Cardiac tests to rule out heart-related issues

Electrocardiogram (ECG) to screen for an abnormal heart rhythm, which may indicate underlying heart disease