



# Advice from the Vet's desk

Dr. Windham's Health Tips:

Preventive health care goes a long way to ensure your pet's quality of life.

Whether your pet is young or old, wellness care focuses on disease prevention and early detection of health problems. The wellness exam is also an ideal opportunity to learn about any new treatments and recommendations for your pet's long term health. During the preventive health care visit, your Veterinarian should perform a thorough physical examination on your pet as well as discuss the following:

- Behavior issues. Has your pet been destroying your house or having accidents in the house? There could be a health issue.
- Dental health- Does your pet have bad breath ? This is not normal and can be caused by diabetes and dental disease just to name a few.
- Fecal examination and prevention. Twice yearly fecal examinations ensure that your pet and your family are parasite free.
- Heartworm testing and prevention. Prevention of this deadly disease is simple. Once your pet becomes infected, treatment becomes complicated and risky, especially in cats.
- Immunizations. Based on your pet's lifestyle, your Veterinarian will recommend any necessary immunizations.
- Nutrition. Are you feeding your pet a healthy diet? Is your pet at an ideal weight? Pets that are fed healthy diets that promote an ideal weight live 15% longer and have fewer veterinary costs.
- Wellness testing: This testing analyses your pet's blood to evaluate blood counts and internal organ function. This testing complements your Veterinarian's thorough physical examination of your pet. Wellness testing not only detects problems, but more importantly, it establishes a baseline of what is normal for your pet.

It is a well-known fact that early detection leads to early treatment, which results in more positive outcomes. Talk with your Veterinarian about any concerns that you may have about your pet. Your veterinary team is an invaluable resource for information.

We would love to address any questions you may have in future articles and hear what you think about this one!

Send your questions/comments to  
[healinghandsanimalhospital@gmail.com](mailto:healinghandsanimalhospital@gmail.com)  
 Your Pets Their Health Our Passion,  
 Thomas Lee Windham, DVM

