

Preventative Medicine for All Ages

At Belmont Shore Veterinary Hospital we feel that it is a privilege to share in the care of the pets you love. We believe prevention is the key to good health. Therefore, we focus on a wide range of preventative measures to help maintain your pet's good health, the most important of which is a complete physical exam. Whether your pet is a puppy, kitten, adult, senior, or geriatric, we will help formulate a plan to meet his or her individual needs.

Puppies and Kittens: New puppies and kittens need to be examined most frequently by the doctor and recommendations will focus on the following:

Puppies

- Presence of any congenital or breed related abnormalities
- Prevention of parvovirus and distemper virus through judicious use of vaccinations
- Identification and prevention of any intestinal parasite through the use of deworming agents and one or more microscopic examinations of the feces
- Heartworm disease prevention protocol
- External parasite treatment and prevention (fleas and ticks)
- Education regarding the benefits of spaying and neutering your new puppy.

Kittens

- Presence of any congenital or acquired diseases including testing for Feline Leukemia Virus and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus
- Prevention of infectious disease through the judicious use of vaccinations
- Identification and prevention of any intestinal parasite through the use of deworming agents and one or more microscopic examinations of the feces
- External parasite treatment and prevention (fleas and ticks)
- Education regarding the benefits of spaying and neutering your new kitten

Adult Pets: The most important thing you can do to prevent illness and maintain the health of your pet is to schedule regular annual exams so that the doctor can evaluate your pet. Please see "What to Expect During Your Pet's Examination" for more information.

Senior Pets: In general, dogs and cats are considered seniors when they are 7 years old. At this stage of a pet's life it is important to have exams scheduled every six to twelve months so that our doctors can evaluate your pet's health and comfort as they encounter the inevitable changes associated with aging. Regular blood work should become part of your pet's preventative care program as well. Additionally, diagnostic and treatment plans are designed by our doctors on an individual basis to suit the unique needs of your pet.

Geriatric Pets: Dogs over 10 years old and cats over 15 years old are considered geriatric, and they should be meeting with the doctor at least every six months in order to develop a unique preventative health care program tailored specifically to their individual needs.