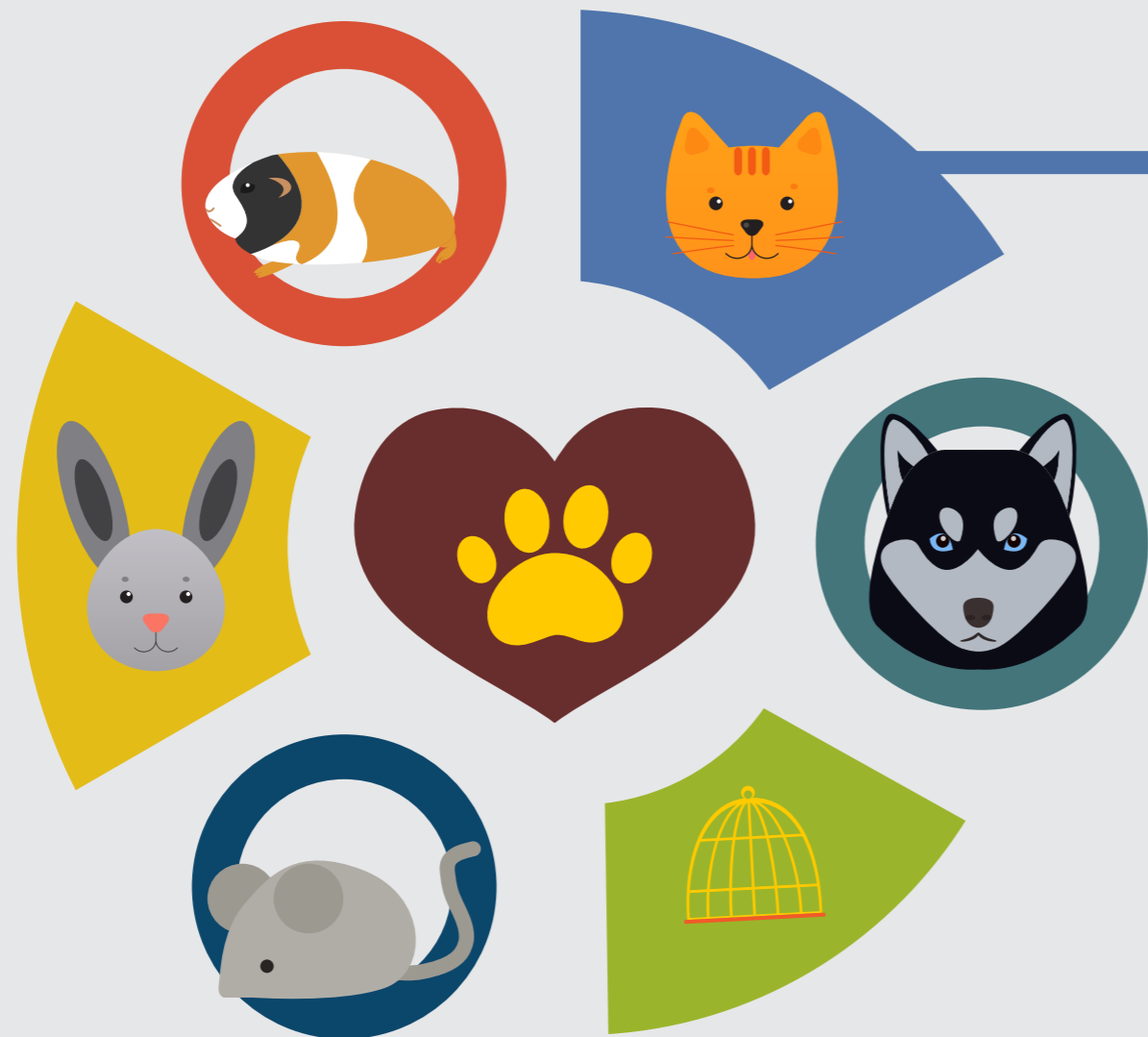


# Your Pet's Wellness Check-Up:

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW



"Potential health problems in pets can be diagnosed early - and costs can be reduced - if pets visit the veterinarian on a regular basis."<sup>1</sup>

**3.5%**  
of dog owners  
and  
**9.6%**  
of cat owners  
swear off all  
veterinary visits<sup>1</sup>

**10.8%**  
of dog owners  
and  
**27.1%**  
of cat owners  
visit a veterinarian  
only when the  
animal is sick<sup>1</sup>

**7.5 million**  
dogs  
and  
**20 million**  
cats  
see a veterinarian  
only when  
they are ailing<sup>1</sup>

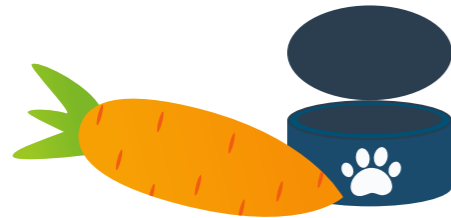


## QUICK TIP:

Pets can't tell you how they're feeling, and many often hide signs of illness until the health condition becomes a bigger problem.

To learn about your pet's overall health, you may be asked:

What food does your pet eat?



How much exercise does your pet get?



Have you noticed changes in bowel movement or urination?



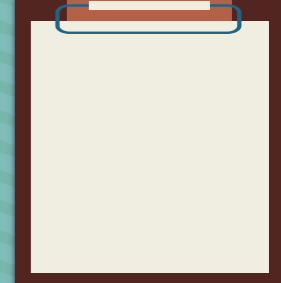
Write down any questions/concerns you have and bring them with you to the appointment!

## WELLNESS CHECK-UP: BEFORE MEETING WITH THE VETERINARIAN



Taken to exam room

Vet tech obtains complete medical history



Lab tests are performed if necessary (x-rays, blood draw, etc.)

Overall appearance is assessed



## WELLNESS CHECK-UP: THE EXAM WITH THE VETERINARIAN

### ORAL

teeth and gums are checked for tartar, gingivitis, periodontal disease, fractured teeth, and abnormal growths in the mouth

### LYMPH NODES

check for abnormal sized lymph nodes

### NERVE FUNCTIONING

overall nerve functioning is assessed

### RECTAL

check anal glands for infection or abnormal growths, check for enlargement of prostate gland

### EYES

visual exam includes the cornea, internal structure, tissues surrounding the eyes, redness, irritation, changes in pupil size, changes in the lens, tear production, and pressure of the eye

### EARS

visual inspection of the ear flap and outer ear canal, discharge, odors, hair in the ear canal, and inspection of the ear drum to identify any swelling in the inner ear canal

### HEART & LUNGS

listen for normal or abnormal cardiac sounds, listen for normal or abnormal lung sounds

### ABDOMEN

check for enlargement or abnormal shape, check for reaction that signals discomfort

### SKIN & COMPLEXION

check for skin diseases, growths, and parasites

### SKELETAL

check bones and joints for swelling or pain, evaluate joints for range of motion and gait

Testing specific to the type of animal will also be performed.

<sup>1</sup> American Veterinary Medical Association, [http://www.veterinarypracticenews.com/December-2012/Millions-Of-Pets-Skip-Wellness-Checks\\_AVMA-Reports/](http://www.veterinarypracticenews.com/December-2012/Millions-Of-Pets-Skip-Wellness-Checks_AVMA-Reports/)

Other Sources:  
<http://www.veterinarygeneral.com/annual-preventive-health-exams.pml>  
Dr. Jeff Shields, Cross Creeks Animal Hospital, Pickerington, OH