

PetWell Veterinary Healthcare

Thank you for choosing PetWell Veterinary Healthcare to care for the furry members of your family. Below are a couple of important topics about simple things you can do at home to help maintain the health and happiness of your pet.

Heartworm Prevention

Heartworms affect both dogs and cats. PetWell strongly recommends that a heartworm preventative be given year-round. Heartworms are transmitted by infected mosquitoes. Because the Southeast has the largest mosquito population in the U.S it also has the highest prevalence of heartworm disease. By giving a monthly dose of heartworm prevention you can help decrease the chances of your dog or cat from contracting this deadly infection.

An annual heartworm test is required by PetWell, and most other veterinary practices to confirm a negative heartworm status for dogs. The annual heartworm test entitles your pet to a 12-month prescription of heartworm prevention. Yearly testing ensures that the product used is effective and that medication has been given at proper 28-30 day (depends on heartworm prevention) intervals. If a pet should become heartworm positive heartworm treatment is available for canines. Treatments for heartworm disease are very expensive and can pose additional health risks to your pet. The damage caused by heartworms is irreversible. There is no treatment available for felines, although prevention is available for both species.

Heartworm prevention should be given once a month, every month for your pet's entire lifetime. We can discuss with you any questions you may have regarding the importance of this issue.

Dental Health

Eighty five percent of dogs and cats over the age of three have dental disease. Most dogs and cats do not receive daily tooth brushing that can help prevent tartar accumulation and infection. Once bacteria begins to colonize it forms plaque, which leads to tartar, gingivitis, and bad breath. From this point, additional health concerns arise. Untreated periodontal disease can lead to compromised kidney, liver, respiratory, and cardiac function. You may greatly reduce the rate at which dental disease develops by brushing your pet's teeth on a regular basis. You should incorporate this into your young puppy or kitten's routine. Practice by opening your pet's mouth and using a finger brush.

Even with multiple tooth brushings daily, people visit a dentist semi-annually for specialized evaluations and treatments. Just like us, pets may require a professional dental cleaning. Even though routine brushing will lessen the frequency at which this anesthetic procedure will need to be performed, it will not eliminate bacteria and infection once it is already present. The staff at PetWell are happy to demonstrate tooth brushing techniques and advise you on canine or feline specific oral health products. If a professional dental cleaning is recommended PetWell is fully equipped with an experienced team to provide these services.