



**Animal Health  
Care Center**  
*of Hershey*

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**General Health Care Recommendations for your pet:**

- 1) **Routine preventive care and vaccinations to prevent common infectious diseases:** Routine fecal exams and deworming to help prevent infectious diseases which can cause serious problems with your pet and are transmissible to humans.
- 2) **Heartworm prevention yearround for the lifetime of your pet:** Heartworm is a deadly parasitic infection which is transmitted by mosquitoes. Pets that are indoor only are also at risk, because it only takes one bite from an infected mosquito to cause infection. Both cats and dogs can be infected and potentially die from heartworm disease if they are not kept on the necessary heartworm prevention yearround. We offer and recommend Heartgard and Interceptor for heartworm disease prevention.
- 3) **Routine care at home for the ears:** Use medicated ear cleaner once every 1-3 weeks as needed to clean your pet's ears and prevent infection. Fill the ear canal with the solution and wipe out with cotton balls. Do not use Q-tips deep into the ear canal! Work with your pet's ears regularly to make them comfortable with having their ears examined and cleaned.
- 4) **Routine care at home for the teeth:** Use dental kits to brush your pet's teeth daily. As a supplement to brushing, you can offer dental chews or use oral rinses. Start working with your pet's teeth as soon as possible to make them comfortable with dental care. Dental diseases are the number one problem with older pets, and it can lead to pain, decreased appetite, and a shortened life span due to infections.
- 5) **Spay or neuter your pet:** Pets who are spayed or neutered on average will live a longer, healthier life. Pets who are not spayed or neutered are at a higher risk for infections, cancer, and behavioral problems.
- 6) **Skin Care:** Topical flea and tick prevention applied monthly during flea and tick season. Fleas and ticks both carry diseases which can cause pain and illness in our pets and can also be transmitted to humans. We offer and recommend Frontline, Advantage, or Advantix for monthly prevention.
  - Fatty Acid supplementation- capsules once daily for the lifetime of your pet have been proven to boost the immune system, fight inflammation, and moisturize the coat and skin to prevent itchy and infected skin.
  - Routine grooming and brushing of coat and trimming of nails to prevent skin infections and nail injuries. Work with your pet to make them comfortable having their paws and body handled.
- 7) **Premium brand diet for the lifetime of your pet:** Feeding a good diet and feeding the proper amount will help your pet live a longer, healthier life.
- 8) **Proper socialization and behavior training for your pet:** All young pets need proper socialization and training to become well-adjusted adults.
- 9) **Identification:** Provide your pet with a collar with identification tags. License your pet with your county of residence as required by law. Consider permanent identification in the forms of a tattoo or microchip.