

Is your dog as healthy as you think?

Health Checks for dogs are part of our Pet Wellness Programs which are designed to keep your pets as healthy and happy as possible for as long as possible.

It all starts with . . .

Twice-a-year Wellness Exams.



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HEATHMONT ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Special Care for Special Friends

Dog Health Checks



IS YOUR DOG AS HEALTHY AS YOU THINK?

HEALTH CHECKS FOR DOGS

What are they?

Healthchecks for dogs is an innovative program unique to Heathmont Animal Hospital. The checks are modeled on the Government's worker health check program and are performed by our qualified veterinary nurses six months after the dog's annual veterinary examination.

The Healthcheck involves a review of the following areas

- Body condition score
- Dental score
- Diet
- Parasite control
- Grooming (including nail clip if required)
- A questionnaire aimed at detecting early signs of diseases such as heart disease and arthritis



Why start now?

Because dogs age so much faster than humans, waiting 12 months between check-ups is like us waiting 7 years before getting a medical check-up. There is a trend in both human and veterinary medicine toward preventative medicine and the early detection of disease. In the US, six month vet check ups are becoming the norm for dogs and cats (see www.npwm.com).

At Heathmont Animal Hospital, we have been encouraging six months check ups for senior pets for some time through our Senior's Club. This program is an extension of that to include all dogs.

The unique aspect of our program is that we are utilizing our veterinary nurses to administer the program. We see this as a win-win-win program. Your dog wins by having the very best of care. You win by saving money and having peace of mind about your dog's health. Our nurses also win by utilising their skills to a greater degree.

How does it save me money?

There is an old saying that says: "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" which is just as applicable to dogs as it is to people. By attending to such things as diet, dental care and parasite control, you can avoid the most common diseases of dogs (obesity, periodontal disease and flea dermatitis) and the associated costs of treatment.

What if something abnormal is found?

The health checks are not veterinary examinations and by law, nurses are not allowed to diagnose or treat animals. If they do detect any abnormalities during a health check they may recommend a veterinary examination. Depending on the availability of a vet, this may be able to be done at the time or another consultation with the vet may need to be arranged. If this is done within 7 days, we only charge half a normal veterinary consultation fee. Because health checks are priced at half a veterinary consultation fee, you do not pay any more than if you had brought your dog for a veterinary examination.

What about senior dogs?

If your dog is over 7 years of age we still recommend they join the seniors club. The health checks are however, a cheaper alternative and we strongly recommend six monthly check-ups for all dogs, especially as they get older.

