

Early Detection is the Key to Keeping Your Pet Healthy and Happy

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Early Detection is the Key to Keeping Your Pet Healthy and Happy

By Bev Allen

It is becoming widely accepted that people who live with animal companions enjoy longer and

healthier lives. Our pets remind us to be gentle, loyal, and trusting. They make us laugh, often during the most challenging times in our lives. Best of all, they connect us to something basic in our own nature. In return, they depend on us to provide for their health and well-being.

But because we don't always know what they are feeling or thinking, caring for our animal friends can sometimes be challenging—especially since we want to uncover any problems as soon as we can.

Have you ever thought, "I wish my pet could just tell me what's wrong?"

Actually, they often do. Just not in English. They talk to us in their appearance and behavior. They often give us signs—and we must become detectives to notice them.

Some people give their animals a "PETscan" each week. To scan your pet, look at your animals' eyes to see if they're clear, study their coat to make sure it's not dry or flaky, notice if their mood is alert and calm, and feel their body and limbs for lumps or soreness. Also, notice any changes in their appetite, energy or elimination.

If your animal shows any signs of illness, always consult your veterinarian. If you find something minor, it's smart to track it in a journal. If the change continues or progresses, you'll have information about details and duration to give your veterinarian.

What is really mind-boggling to the pet owner is the fact that an animal can develop a health problem without showing outward symptoms! It is heartbreaking for someone to find that their dog or cat has an advanced infection or disease at their regular veterinary visit, when the owner has seen no warning signs in the pet's appearance or behavior.

For example, a dog or cat can lose up to two-thirds of its kidney functioning before it shows any symptoms of kidney disease.

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Therefore, you need more tools than just your caring observation. A new product called ThePetCheckup^ä was created to address this very challenge.

ThePetCheckup is an easy-to-use, early detection at-home urinalysis test. When you give this health screen to your dogs and cats on a regular basis (we recommend monthly), you can locate imbalances that lead to many of the most common illnesses that affect their health, including kidney infection, kidney disease, diabetes, hepatitis, bacterial infections, prostate or liver disorders, urinary tract infections, urinary bladder disease, and other ailments.

Most importantly, this test can indicate imbalances at an early stage—even before symptoms appear.

ThePetCheckup uses the same diagnostic materials commonly used in veterinary clinics and specially packages them for you to use at home. Giving your pets ThePetCheckup each month helps you know when your animal friend needs veterinary attention between routine visits.

Not only is ThePetCheckup a way to detect imbalances that your animal can't tell you about. It's also one of the veterinarian's best friends. According to an article in the American Veterinary Medical Association (July, 2003):

"Veterinarians know that early detection allows problems to be treated more easily and more affordably, and usually results in a better outcome for the pet."

Statistics show that early detection is the most powerful tool for creating and maintaining good health. A study in 2000 conducted by the Pet Health and Nutrition Center of Corning, NY, stated, "If detected early, 74.7% of common diseases in dogs and 63% of common diseases in cats can be prevented by dietary modifications alone over a one-year period."

So, the best ways to gather information about your pet's health and locate any problems at an early stage are to:

1. Give your dog and cat a weekly "PETscan" to observe their appearance and behavior.
2. And give them ThePetCheckup monthly to check for imbalances that can lead to over ten of the most common dog and cat ailments.

You can gather the clues, but your veterinarian is the only one who can make an accurate diagnosis.

Your pet and your veterinarian are depending on your Sherlock Holmes' skills, because medical treatments are often simpler, less costly, and more successful when the illness is detected at an early stage.

Bev Allen is CEO and Founder of Lily & Me, Inc., a company devoted to the welfare of animals. Their first product is ThePetCheckupTM— the at-home, early detection health screening kit for dog and cat health. Now there is something you can do in your own home to help your dog and cat live a longer and healthier life.

Get To Know A Veterinarian

By Analeese Burnabaker

If you are a pet owner, it is time that you got to know a veterinarian. Why? Because, quite simply, a veterinarian is like a doctor for your pets. If you enjoy pets enough to own one or many, then you should take the time, energy and money to properly take care of those beloved pets.

Some pet owners believe that a visit to a veterinarian is only necessary when a pet is suffering or ill. And while you definitely want to visit a veterinarian when your pets become ill or start to show abnormal symptoms, you should also schedule routine appointments for your pets just like you schedule regular appointments for you and your family to visit a physician. There is no good reason not to give your pets the best care that you possibly can. Many simple problems and sicknesses can be prevented or solved easily by early detection, even in pets, so make it a priority to see your veterinarian regularly.

New pet owners should make appointments immediately to see a veterinarian and get a full health check for your new friend. Let your veterinarian teach you all about your new pet. Learn about the best ways to care for your pet, the best food to feed it, the best ways to bathe it, and the levels of activity that are necessary for keeping your pet healthy. You may be surprised how much there is to learn about each variety of different pets. Whether you have a dog, a cat, a bird or a horse, I guarantee you that a veterinarian will teach you helpful tips that you didn't already know.

If you are currently a pet owner and have never taken the time to schedule an appointment for your pets, do so now. Talk to your other pet-owning friends to see what veterinarians are respected in your area. Flipping through your phonebook or doing a simple internet search can also help you explore options for finding the right veterinarian in your area. Some vets specialize in certain animals, so be sure that you schedule a visit with a veterinarian that has vast experience with your particular pets.

If you think that making appointments for your pets to see a veterinarian is silly, then I wonder whether or not you are suited to be a pet owner. You must consider your lifestyle and your ability to provide the right level of care for pets. Be honest with yourself and know that it is much better to give up a pet you already own than to keep that pet and not care for it properly.

Pet lover Analeese Burnabaker is committed to ensuring that pet owners are doing their job. She thinks that seeing a veterinarian regularly is essential for all pets. Check out

<http://www.myveterinarian.info>

for more.



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