

# A Checkup Checklist For Dogs of All Ages



## WHAT TO ASK your veterinarian

One of the most important ways to help keep your canine friend healthy and happy is a **veterinary examination** at least annually, at every stage of life.\* Use this checklist as a helpful reminder of questions to consider asking your veterinarian. And if you ever have questions or concerns about your dog's health, call your veterinarian right away.

### PUPPY Birth to 6-9 mos

- When should I get my puppy spayed/neutered?
- Should my puppy be microchipped?
- What and how often should I feed my puppy?  
How much?
- Is there an optimal vaccination schedule?
- Are there behaviors I should encourage or discourage?
- Should I enroll my puppy in training classes?
- How can I get my puppy comfortable coming to the veterinary clinic?
- What kinds of toys should I provide my puppy?
- When should I start brushing my puppy's teeth?
- What's the best way to prevent fleas, ticks, heartworms and other parasites?
- Is there anything special I should know about my puppy's breed?

### YOUNG ADULT 6-9 mos to 3-4 yrs

- How do I transition from puppy food to an adult diet?
- How much should my dog weigh?
- Does my pet need a fecal exam?
- What ongoing vaccinations does my dog need?
- How much activity and exercise should my dog get?
- What's the best way to brush my dog's teeth?
- Is it time for a dental cleaning?
- What's the best way to prevent fleas, ticks, heartworms and other parasites?
- What can I do to keep my dog even healthier?
- When should I bring my dog back for the next checkup?

### MATURE ADULT 3-4 yrs to senior stage

- What signs of aging should I look for?
- Should I change my dog's diet?
- Does my dog need a dental cleaning?
- What vaccinations does my dog need?
- Is it normal for my dog to be less active with age?
- Is my dog the right weight?
- Does my dog need special blood tests or urinalysis?
- When should I bring my dog back for the next checkup?

### SENIOR Last 25% of life span

- What physical and behavioral changes should I be looking for?
- Should I change or supplement my pet's diet?
- Does my dog need a dental cleaning?
- Are there things I can do to keep my pet in optimum physical shape?
- Does my dog need special blood tests or urinalysis?
- When should I bring my dog back for the next checkup?

**Additional information can be found by visiting  
AAHA.org and clicking on Your Pet.**



*\*Exact ages for these life stages vary with breed and size of dog.*

This content is offered for informational use only. You are urged to consult with your individual veterinarian with respect to any professional advice presented.