

# PREVENTION



## **Dental Screening**

Poor dental hygiene can lead to a host of medication problems, not just stinky breath. The most common issues include gingivitis, tooth loss, infection, and difficulty eating. Periodontal disease can have detrimental effects on your pet's heart, kidneys, and liver. Annual dental cleanings are recommended to reduce the tartar build-up that leads to other dentalrelated issues.

**Fecal Testing** 

Intestinal parasites can affect cats and dogs at any stage of their life. Microscopic parasites can be picked up from fecal-contaminated soil, grass, and water. Intestinal parasites can be passed to other pets in the household and, in some cases, their owners. Annual testing and year-round prevention are recommended to detect and prevent infections.

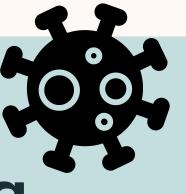
#### Wellness Blood Work

Annual wellness blood work is designed to detect early stages of disease in pets that may appear healthy. Early detection allows your veterinarian to develop a plan to monitor, manage, or correct a problem before your pet becomes seriously ill. Monitoring your pet's health with a yearly physical and annual blood work can lead to many more happy, healthy years with your pet.

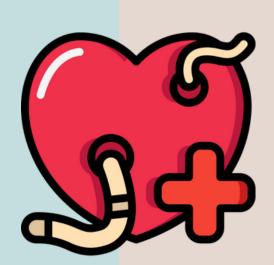
#### Flea and Tick Prevention

Whether your pet lives indoors, outdoors, or a little of both, flea and tick prevention should be used all year round. Fleas and ticks can transmit many infections to your fur babies including tapeworms, Lyme disease, Anaplasma, Bartonella, Mycoplasma, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and others.

### Heartworm & Tick-borne Disease Screening



Screening for these common infectious diseases every year is important to make sure our prevention plan is working. The American Heartworm Society necessitates testing dogs for heartworm every year.



#### Heartworm Prevention



Heartworms, unlike intestinal worms, are worms that actually live in the heart. They are transmitted through mosquito bites, and they can infect dogs and cats. Heartworms cause scarring to the right side of the heart and the arteries leading to the lungs, coughing, and exercise intolerance. In cats they can cause sudden death. Year-round heartworm prevention is our best weapon against this dangerous disease.