

# Wellness Program for Dogs and Cats

## York Veterinary Hospital



### Why do it?

There are some basic tests that your veterinarian can do at your yearly visit. This is a program that will allow us to be proactive in your pet's wellness plan by detecting problems in their earlier and more treatable stages.

### What is it?

There are 2 basic tests that are run as a minimum data base to assess your pet's health.

#### 1. Complete Blood Count (CBC)

The CBC tests for anemia, infection, inflammation, certain cancers, and the overall health of the red and white blood cells. It evaluates the number and type of blood cells in circulation. Red Blood Cells (RBC's) carry oxygen to your pet's tissues and White Blood Cells (WBC's) help fight infection or inflammation.

#### 2. Chemistry Tests

The chemistry panel will allow us to have an overall survey of many of your pet's organ systems to make sure they are working normally. It includes:

**Glucose (Blood Sugar)**-A glucose test will detect abnormally high blood sugar levels which may indicate Diabetes. Low levels may indicate liver disease, severe infection, certain types of cancer and Addison's Disease.

**BUN/Creatinine**-High levels of these values indicate kidney disease. Kidney disease can occur at any age.

**ALT/AlkPhos**-High values can indicate liver disease which is a common disorder in dogs and cats.

**Total Protein/Albumin**-Changes in these blood values can indicate intestinal, kidney or liver disease or malnutrition.

**Potassium**-Aids in identifying Addison's disease, a disorder of the adrenal glands which may occur as early as 6 months of age.

#### Additional Tests:

##### Thyroid Hormone :

This test measures the amount of circulating thyroid hormone in the blood. Disorders of this hormone can occur in dogs and cats although they differ in their disease. Hyperthyroidism (too much Thyroid hormone) occurs primarily in cats as they age. Undetected and untreated it can lead to heart disease, hypertension and death. Dogs are primarily Hypothyroid (too little Thyroid Hormone). This leads to weight gain, energy loss,

poor coat and skin and other complications.

### **Heartworm Test**

Primarily done in dogs. This test evaluates the blood serum for the presence of Heartworms. Undetected and untreated this disease leads to serious heart and lung disease and death. Heartworms are spread by mosquito bites and the disease is easily preventable with a monthly medication.

**Fecal Test:** A stool sample is examined to detect hookworms, whipworms, roundworms, coccidia and Giardia. You will not always see worms in the stool when your pet has intestinal parasites.

## **What do you recommend for my cat?**

Basic wellness screening should include a CBC, Chemistry, Thyroid level and Fecal test. Based on these results we may also recommend a urinalysis.

## **What do you recommend for my dog?**

Basic wellness should include a CBC, Chemistry, Heartworm test and Fecal test. Depending on these results or other symptoms your dog may have, we may discuss Thyroid level and/or urinalysis.

## **What age should we start?**

The younger the better. Some diseases are detectable as early as 6 months of age. ALL pets over the age of 7 should be receiving yearly wellness screening. Our goal is early detection and early intervention. Normal test results provide a great baseline to follow your pet's future.

## **What Does It Cost?**

**Cat Wellness includes** CBC, Chemistry and Thyroid \$54.23

**Dog Wellness includes** CBC, Chemistry and Heartworm \$55.50

**Heartworm Test alone** \$37.60

**Fecal** \$22.50

**Add on Urinalysis** \$19.00

**Add Thyroid for Dog** \$78.00

## **Early Detection**

*My pet is happy and healthy, why do this? The fact is that our pets may have such gradual onset of disease that we may not notice it happening. If detected early we may be able to do more to manage the disease. By the time symptoms appear, the disease may be more difficult and costly to treat.*

*The wellness program includes blood tests that can be used to diagnose kidney and liver disease, diabetes, infection, blood disorders, cancer, thyroid disease and other hormonal problems. Many of these can be prevented, controlled or reversed, if detected early.*

*Labwork is only one portion of the wellness program. Vaccinations or vaccine titers, parasite control, good nutrition and exercise and regular dental care will add good quality years to your pet's life.*