

# Pawsitive Press

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## Why Your Pet Needs a Yearly Exam

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Yearly exams are important for pets, just like they are for people. They are a way for veterinarians to perform physical exams, run routine lab work and address any questions or concerns you have face to face. We are able to advise you on how to help keep your pet healthy and happy and can occasionally catch things we may not otherwise see.



The physical exam allows us to check for new lumps and bumps (or monitor old ones), check your pet's teeth, assess for muscle mass and mobility issues and so much more. We can test any concerning lumps for things like cancers and this can help us decide the best course of treatment, whether that be removing the mass or something more involved like referring your pet to an oncologist (cancer doctor) if needed. We check the teeth to see if there is any loose teeth, excessive tartar and other signs of dental disease that you may not see at home. We can advise you if your pet needs a dental cleaning or if we think you



can continue the at home dental care you are providing. Undiagnosed dental disease can cause pain and can affect what and how your pet eats. We may notice decreases in range of motion, signs of arthritis or joint pain that you may not notice at home and help you find a way to support your pet's joint health and make them more comfortable. Routine lab work allows us to evaluate internal organ functions to an extent and may alert us to early or underlying conditions. Some frequently caught findings are the start of kidney disease or liver disease. When we catch these diseases early we are better able to treat or slow the progression of these diseases. It can also help us suspect or identify diseases like diabetes, hypothyroidism or Cushing's disease that can affect our pets as well and require treatment lifelong. Sometimes it can

also help us guide you on the best dog food to feed your pet for optimal health because we can catch indicators of high protein diets, which can affect the kidneys long term, or high fat contents, which can affect weight, joint health and several other factors. Another great benefit of yearly physical exams is having a face to face conversation with your veterinarian to answer any questions you may have, discuss any changes you have noticed and discuss any concerns you have encountered. We live in the age of social media and are constantly receiving information or misinformation from different outlets. A yearly visit with your veterinarian can help you manage this information and allows you to get the correct information from the expert who can also explain the details of why the information you found may or may not be true. We are here to help. We are here to give you the most accurate information. We are here to guide you in the best care of your pet because we know that we all want our pets to live forever and we try to help you get as much time with your amazing pet as possible.



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