



# PINE TREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

RECOMMENDED HEALTH CARE FOR CATS

## ANNUAL WELLNESS VISITS

A thorough physical exam confirms your cat is healthy enough to receive vaccinations. We also address any questions you may have on routine care or behavior issues during these appointments. For some pets, bloodwork may be recommended which can detect diseases not evident on physical exams.

## VACCINATIONS

| Indoor cats | Outdoor cats |
|-------------|--------------|
| FVRCP       | FVRCP        |
| RABIES      | RABIES       |
|             | FeLV         |

**FVRCP:** Often referred to as the “feline distemper shot,” this vaccine protects against 3 viral diseases. This includes a highly contagious, often fatal disease (panleukopenia) and the viruses responsible for a majority of feline respiratory diseases / upper respiratory infections (Calicivirus and Feline Herpes Virus). These viruses maybe carried into the cat’s environment by yourself or visitors.

**RABIES:** Required by Maine state law. Prevents a fatal, untreatable disease of animals and humans. Even indoor cats may be infected by bats or if they escape from the house.

**FeLV (or Feline Leukemia Vaccine):** Protects against Feline Leukemia Virus, which is contagious between cats and causes immune suppression with secondary illnesses and often cancer. Kittens and young cats seem to be at greatest risk.



## LABORATORY TESTS

**Fecal Exam:** A stool sample should be examined once a year to look for the eggs of intestinal parasites that may affect your pet and family. Pets are infected with parasites from their mother’s milk, eating rodents, contact with other animal’s feces, and from fleas. Young, old and immune-suppressed humans can also be infected by a pet’s parasites. Treatment with a dewormer may be recommended in cases where obtaining a stool sample is not possible and the cat is at risk for infection.

**FeLV/FIV Test:** (Feline Leukemia, Feline Immunodeficiency Virus test): Recommended for newly adopted kittens and adult cats. This test is also recommended for sick cats that are at risk of exposure and/or showing clinical signs consistent with these diseases.

**Senior Wellness Profile:** Routine bloodwork recommended for cats 7 years of age and older to evaluate for illnesses that may not be apparent by behavior or a physical exam.

## **PREVENTATIVE TREATMENTS**

**Heartworm Preventative:** Heartworm is a serious and potentially fatal disease carried by mosquitoes. The disease causes heart and lung damage but can be prevented through monthly medication. For prevention, a chewable or spot-on product (a product applied to the skin) is given/applied once per month. We recommend it be given year round as it provides protection from intestinal parasites in addition to preventing heartworm disease



*Remember, a healthy cat is a happy cat!*

**Flea & Tick Prevention:** It is recommended to use monthly spot-on products to prevent flea and tick exposure. This a concern for the indoor only cats as well as cats that go outside. Indoor cats can be exposed by other pets in the household that go outside. Fleas can also be introduced by visiting pets. Visitors that have a “flea problem” may also carry in eggs and adult fleas on clothing and other belongings. Fleas and ticks carry infectious diseases, cause tapeworms infections and may lead to irritating skin disease.

**Microchips:** A small chip that is implanted under the skin and serves as a permanent form of identification. A registered microchip gives missing pets the best chance of returning home if they are lost or stolen. Research shows that one in three pets will become lost during their life. Microchips cannot fall off or become damaged like collar and tags.

**Spaying/Neutering:** This refers to the removal of the uterus and ovaries (spaying) or testicles (neutering). The ideal age for these procedures is between 4-6 months. Altering your **female** pet eliminates the risk of reproductive cancers (uterine and ovarian cancers), reduces the risk of mammary cancer, prevents unwanted litters and eliminates the risk of pyometra- a potentially fatal infection of the uterus. Altering your **male** pet eliminates the risk of testicular cancer, reduces roaming and fighting behavior, and can eliminate or reduce spraying/marketing behavior if performed before 6 months of age.