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The Annual Health Check and Booster

An annual veterinary check and booster vaccination is an important part of your pet's yearly health care. When you come in for your check, your vet will discuss with you any particular concerns you may have had over the preceding year. A general examination will be performed and should you have any particular worries, these can be addressed in more detail. The cost of your booster vaccination includes a clinical examination which may include the following, along with addressing any particular concerns you may have in more detail:

- **Examination of teeth:** with discussion of periodontal health and possible preventative care.
- **Examination of the ear canals:** your vet can look for any discharge, presence of foreign bodies (such as grass seeds) and health of the ear drum.
- **Auscultation of the chest:** this allows your vet to listen to the rhythm and rate of your pet's heart with a stethoscope. Particularly in the young or the elderly, it can be an ideal opportunity to detect murmurs or irregularities which may require further monitoring or investigation should you so wish. Using a stethoscope, the lungs can also be listened to.
- **Palpation of the abdomen:** it is often possible to feel the shape and size of many of your pet's internal organs including the kidneys, liver and bladder. This can give important information regarding discomfort or abnormalities. In addition, your vet will feel for any abnormal lumps or bumps. In the unfortunate event that an abnormality is detected, your vet will discuss with you the potential causes and possible further tests that may be indicated.
- **Examination of the eyes:** using an ophthalmoscope, your vet may shine a light into your pet's eyes and examine the different components of the eye. This can be particularly useful in older patients where the back of the eye can provide a clue to the early stages of a number of underlying disease processes.
- **Orthopaedic examination:** if your pet is becoming stiff then your vet may examine his/her legs and spine to detect any source of discomfort and discuss future management including exercise, complementary medicine and any appropriate medications.
- **Weight check:** it is important to monitor changes in your pet's weight to keep him/her in optimum condition. Unintentional weight loss can be an indicator of underlying disease processes, prompting further investigations, whereas weight gain can pose a considerable risk to your pet's wellbeing. Your vet will be happy to discuss diet and management advice with you.

The vaccination covers your pet against a number of major, and potentially fatal infectious diseases he/she may be exposed to. For some diseases, vaccinations must be repeated yearly whereas for other diseases there can be a longer interval. At your yearly check your vet will discuss with you which vaccinations are required and all required components can be given together as a **single** injection.

In addition, please ask your vet if you would like your pets nails clipped, or anal glands expressed.