

Canine Wellness

Aggieland
Animal 
Health Center
— & —
Pet Resort



Vaccines

DHPP (Distemper, Adenovirus type II, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza)

In canines, the vaccine is administered subcutaneously as a series of boosters given 3 weeks apart until your dog is at or after 16-20 weeks of age. It is important that your dog receive all the boosters to ensure proper immunity formation. Vaccine protocols may change for breeds that are at high risk for Parvovirus or vaccine reactions. After the puppy vaccine boosters are completed we will boost in 1 year, then every 6 years after that.

Rabies

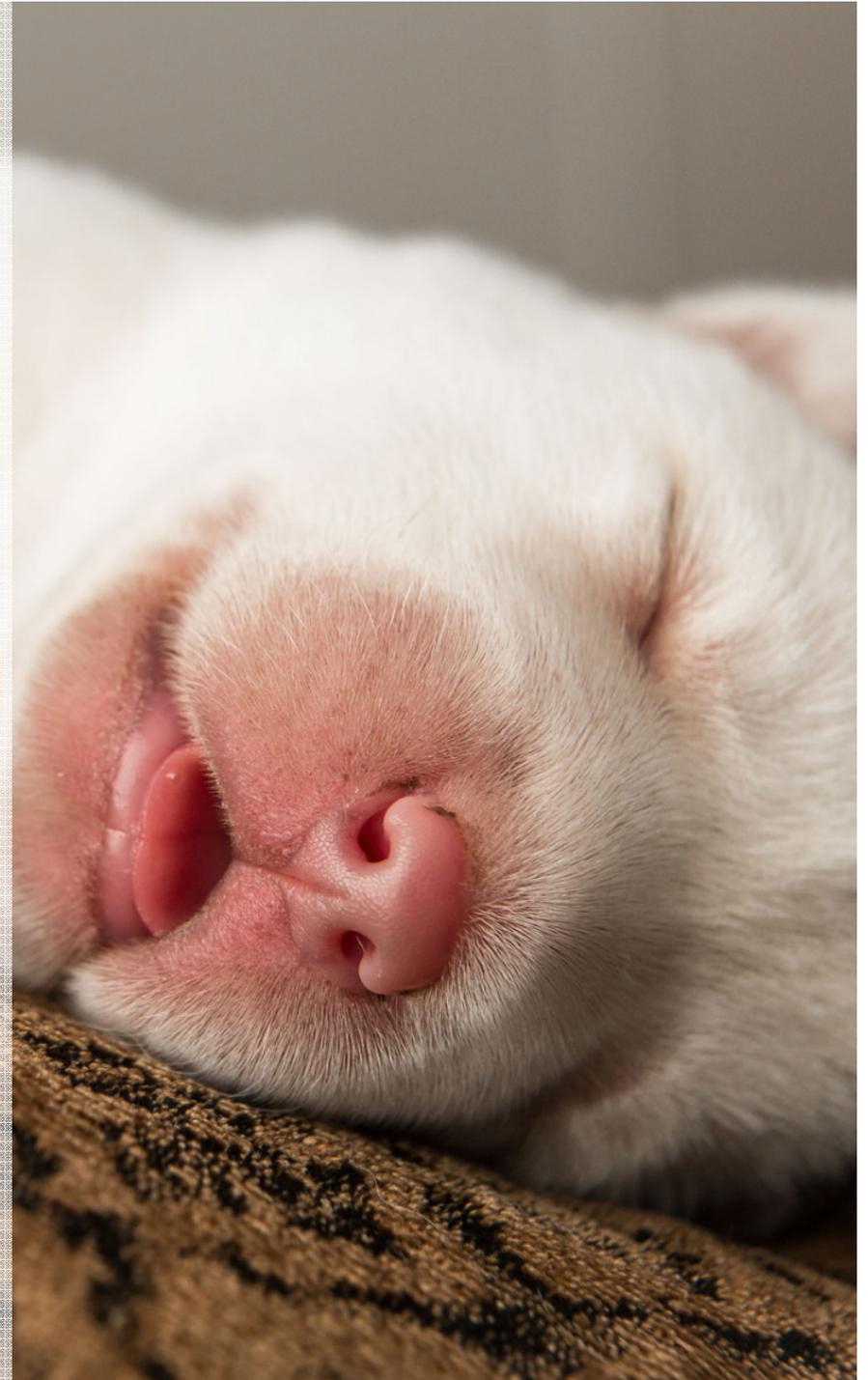
The Rabies vaccine is required to be kept up to date by Texas state law. The initial vaccination will be given subcutaneously at or after 12 weeks of age. Our Rabies vaccine requires a booster in 1 year, then every 3 years after that.

Kennel Cough (*Bordetella*)

This vaccine protects your dog from kennel cough. It is administered intranasally to provide immediate protection and needs to be boosted annually. This vaccine is recommended for dogs who may be exposed to groomers, boarding facilities, dog parks, or other areas frequently visited by other canines.

Leptospirosis

This vaccine protects your dog from a renal disease passed through rodents and other small mammals. This disease is becoming more prominent in our area and is potentially fatal to pet and owner alike, so we strongly recommend it for all dogs. This is administered in a series of two boosters 3 weeks apart, then boosted annually.





Vaccine Reactions

Mild reactions are more common and the symptoms are almost never life-threatening. If they occur the veterinarian should be informed in order to avoid a more severe reaction in the future. Symptoms to watch for include drowsiness and swelling, itchiness, or pain at the injection site that may last for several days after the vaccination.

Severe reactions are uncommon, yet when they do occur it is typically within the first hour post-vaccination. If your dog exhibits any of these symptoms please seek veterinary attention immediately. Signs to watch for included vomiting, diarrhea, profound lethargy, pale gums, hives, and swelling of the face and feet.



Parvovirus

Prevention of this disease is critical for new puppy owners. The virus is shed in the feces of infected dogs. This virus can be present in nearly every environment and remain for months to years.

Canine Parvovirus attacks the immune system and gastrointestinal tract. Dogs effected have trouble absorbing nutrients and develop severe bloody diarrhea and nausea which may lead to vomiting and poor appetite. If you see any of these symptoms contact the clinic immediately. We will diagnose this disease with a 5 minute test in the clinic. If your puppy is positive there are treatment options through the clinic. We support the body with intravenous fluids, antibiotics, and anti-emetics (anti-nausea medication) in order to give the puppy's own immune system chance to fight off the virus. If left untreated too long dogs will succumb to dehydration or septicemia.

Keeping your puppy up to date on their vaccines is the best way to prevent the disease. Until they have completed all their boosters keep them separate from other dogs and away from grooming facilities, dog parks, and pet stores. This will reduce their risk of contamination, so they can remain happy and healthy.

Heartworms

Transmission

Heartworms are transmitted by mosquitoes. In this part of the country, it is a year round problem. Once infected, the larval stages migrate through the body to the heart and lungs where they develop into adults.

Importance of Prevention

Heartworm infections can cause congestive heart failure, high blood pressure, and kidney damage in your pet. For these reasons it is important to keep them on a monthly preventative year round. Heartworm disease is treatable in dogs, but the damage done to their heart is often permanent. For these reasons it is extremely important to keep them on a year round monthly preventative and also have a yearly vector borne disease screen to test for heartworm disease.



Intestinal Parasites

The most common intestinal parasites include hookworms, roundworms, whipworms, and tapeworms. These parasites are transmitted through skin contact or through ingestion of feces, milk from an infected mother, fleas, or rodents. Symptoms may include diarrhea, poor hair coat, bloody stool, bloating, weight loss, vomiting, or worm segments being passed in the stool, however not all dogs may demonstrate signs of infection. Many of these parasites are zoonotic, meaning they can be transmitted to people. We recommend an annual intestinal parasite analysis to screen for these and other intestinal parasites in your pet. Administering a monthly heartworm and flea preventative will help prevent many of these parasites.



Fleas

Fleas can cause severe irritation to your pet's skin and cause inflammation and hair loss and secondary skin infections can result. In cases of severe infestation, the dog may become anemic from blood loss. A hypersensitivity to flea saliva can also develop resulting in flea allergy dermatitis. Without proper flea prevention an infestation in your home and/or yard can occur. Please consult with us before purchasing any over the counter flea preventatives because some are ineffective or even toxic.



Ticks

Ticks are ambush predators. They cling to vegetation such as tall grass and weeds and when your pet brushes up against the plant life the tick grabs onto their fur and seeks a suitable attachment site. Ticks do not jump like fleas, however depending on the life cycle stage they may be transferred from pet to pet or to a human host.

Ticks feed on the blood of their host and can cause a number of complications. Minor complications can appear as irritation, inflammation or infection at the attachment site. Anemia, particularly in younger or older pets or those with chronic illness is also a concern. Major diseases such as Ehrlichia, Lyme Disease, Anaplasmosis and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever can also be transmitted to pets and/or humans via tick attachment.

Disease transmission usually occurs 48 hours after the tick has attached to its host and begun feeding. The vast majority of tick control products are designed to kill ticks within this window to prevent disease transmission. However, a yearly vector borne disease screening may be the only way to let us know if your pet is infected. Due to the potential risk of disease transmission to humans and pets it is highly recommended that a tick preventative be used on all pets that will be spending any amount of time outdoors.





Preventatives

Heartgard Plus is a monthly oral product prevents heartworm disease as well as hookworms and roundworm infections.

Trifexis is a monthly oral product prevents heartworm disease, hookworms, roundworms, and whipworms. It will also kill adult biting fleas. We will require a vector borne disease screening before selling this product if your pet has not been consistent on monthly heartworm prevention.

Seresto is an 8 month flea, tick, and lice collar. The chemical resides within the plastic polymer of the collar so there is no residue. This also makes the collars water resistant and nontoxic if accidentally ingested. This collar does have a safety breakaway feature.

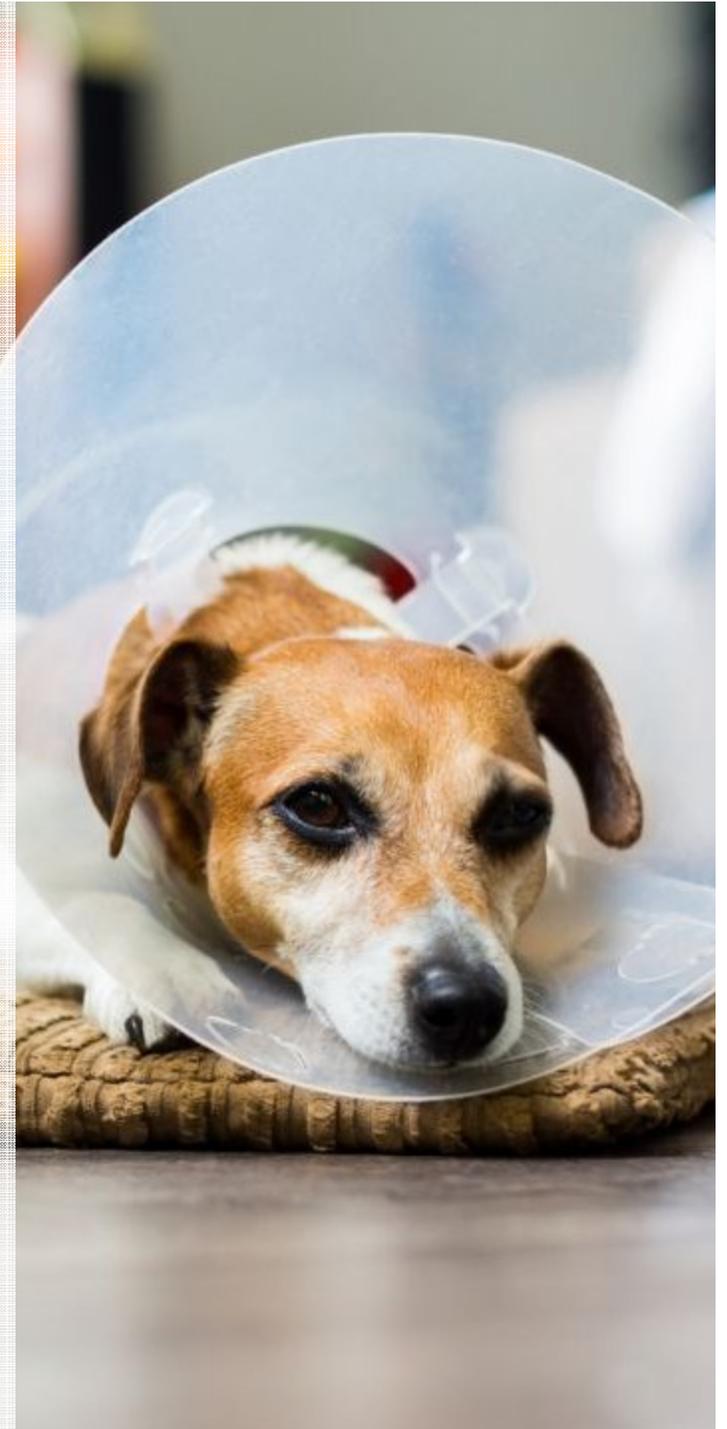
NexGard is a monthly flavored chewable that kills adult biting fleas and ticks. It will kill ticks before disease transmission can occur.

Spay

Ideally, your puppy should be spayed prior to her first heat cycle, which for most dogs occurs at or after 6 months of age. With every heat cycle, the risks of mammary, ovarian and uterine cancer increases as well as the risk of pyometra, which is a life threatening infection of the uterus. Intact female dogs also attract intact male dogs during their heat cycle and these dogs may or may not be aggressive toward each other, your family or your pets.

Our spay and neuter surgeries are charged as packages. These packages include pre-anesthetic bloodwork, IV catheter placement, IV fluids, pain medication, antibiotics, and medications to protect the heart. Your pet will be intubated and a trained anesthetic nurse will control their breathing monitor her vitals. Dogs are kept warm with a heated air blanket. During recovery a nurse stays with your pet until fully recovered from anesthesia and resting comfortably. Our spay surgery patients spend one night in our hospital to keep them as quiet and comfortable as possible and are released the next day with post-operative instructions, and post-operative medications. The majority of dogs have buried sutures, so they will not require a cone. They will most likely have staples covering the incision which will need to be removed in 14 days.

Package prices increase with age and during heat cycles as this adds length to the surgery. Anesthetic emergencies and additional therapies to compensate for blood-work abnormalities will also increase surgical cost. In these cases we will do our very best to contact you and keep you informed of any unusual developments, emergency situations, and/or additional cost.





Neuter

Intact male dogs are at higher risk for prostate cancer, prostate disease, and testicular cancer. Behavioral issues associated with increased testosterone include heightened aggression, marking territory (including indoor territory), and roaming. An intact male can smell a female in heat for miles and are driven to search them out. This can lead to injuries and/or impoundment. Ideally, a dog should be neutered between the ages of 16 and 24 weeks before many of these negative behaviors develop.

Our neuter surgery is charged as a package. This package includes pre-anesthetic bloodwork, IV catheter placement, IV fluids, pain medication, antibiotics and additional medications to protect the heart. Your pet will be intubated and a trained anesthetic nurse will control their breathing monitor her vitals. Dogs are kept warm with a heated air blanket. During recovery a nurse stays with your pet until fully recovered from anesthesia and resting comfortably. Our routine neuter surgery patients are discharged the afternoon of their surgery with post-operative instructions, and oral medications. The majority of the time we will bury our sutures so a cone is not required.

Surgical prices will increase in the case of cryptorchidism (one or both testicles are still in the abdominal cavity and have not descended). Anesthetic emergencies will also increase the price of surgery, and we will do our best to keep you informed of any unusual developments, emergency situations and any additional cost.

Microchip

Having a microchip implanted in your pet serves as a safety net should your pet become lost or if they are taken to a shelter. Collars with proper identification are very important but can be lost and microchips are a permanent form of identification.

There are several brands of pet microchip on the market today and all of them employ a similar delivery system. The microchip is contained inside an implant needle which is inserted under the skin usually between the shoulder blades and the microchip is implanted. The procedure is quick and causes minimal discomfort and can be done either while the pet is awake or during anesthesia for another procedure.

Our microchips are registered online at the clinic so that your dog is protected as soon as they leave our clinic. The microchip information will be given to you, and is able to be adjusted online if you would like to update your pet's profile or you change your home address.





Nails

A vital part of your pet's health is the maintenance of nails. Nails that are too long can torque on your dog's toe joints and eventually result in foot arthritis.

Trimming nails with a nail clipper can place painful pressure on an adult dog's nail and result in injury to the "quick," which is the blood supply within the nail. A much preferred, safer and more effective method is grinding the nail with a Dremel power tool. With a dremel, the nail can be worked back slowly without injuring the quick and resulting in a smooth nail surface. This service is provided by our clinic as well as many grooming salons.

Coat Maintenance



Routine brushing of the coat is very important for both long and short-haired breeds. It will help prevent matting, removes dead hair, and also reduces dander in your home. If you have a long-haired dog it is advisable that you set up a routine appointment with a groomer to maintain coat health.

Dogs have a different skin pH than humans, so human shampoos and dish detergents can cause dry skin and skin irritation. Also avoid medicated shampoos that are not veterinary prescribed and flea/tick shampoos that have harsh pesticides that can harm young puppies and do not have long term efficacy against fleas and ticks. We recommend bathing about once a month.

Ear Cleaning

Routine cleaning of your dog's ears with a pet specific ear cleaner is recommended after your pet has been swimming or had a bath. You may use cotton balls to clean any visible portions of the ear, but refrain from using cotton swabs (q-tips) as they can damage the ear drum or compact debris in the ear canal. Foul odor, redness, inflammation, itching, or heavy debris may indicate an infection. Infections are more commonly the result of an overgrowth of bacteria or yeast rather than ear mites, so please consult with a veterinarian before treating with any over the counter ear mite medication.



Dental Care

Dental Disease

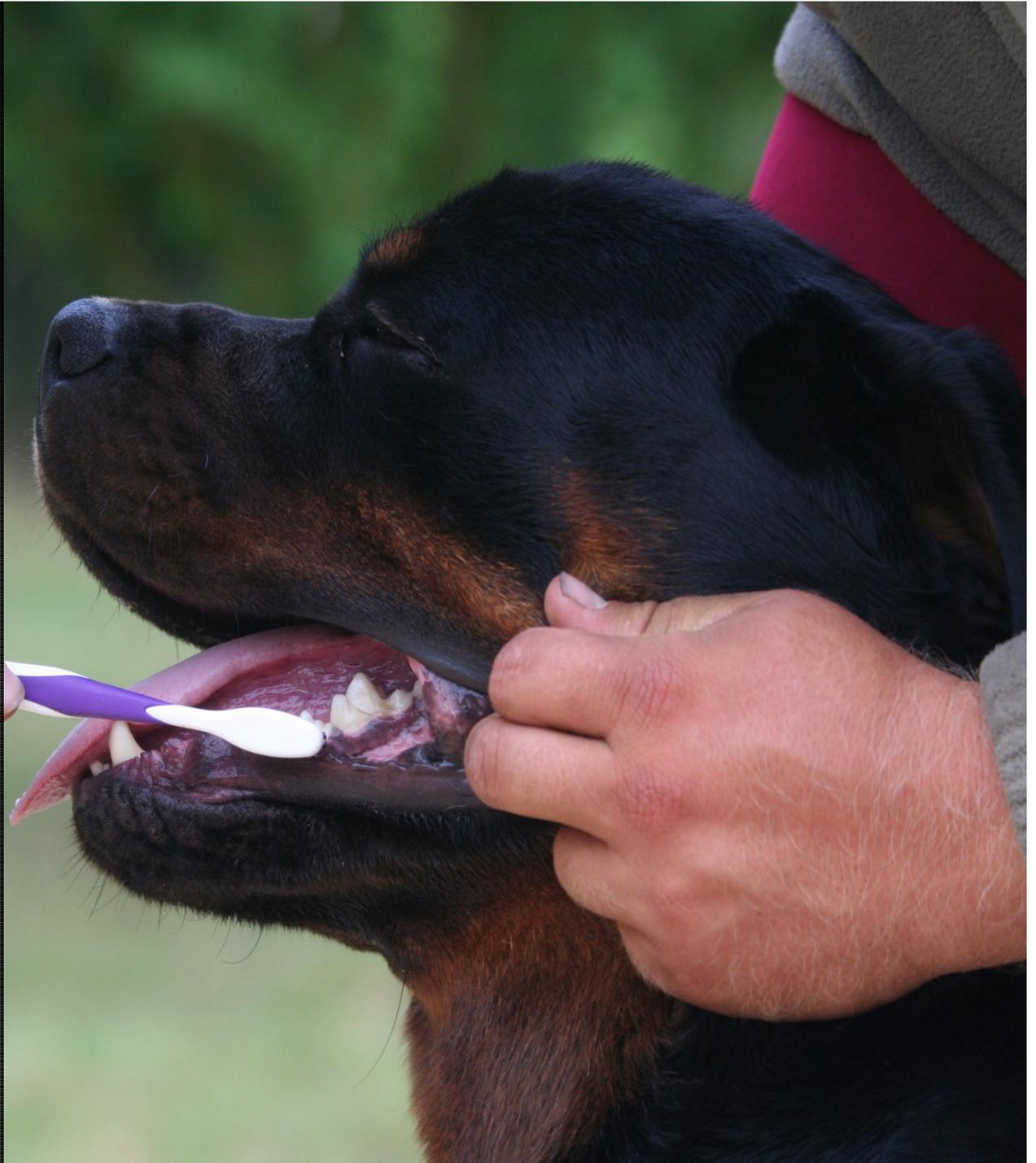
Dental disease can cause gingivitis, tooth decay, bad breath, dental pain, jaw bone decay, and even more serious complications by affecting the heart, liver, and kidneys.

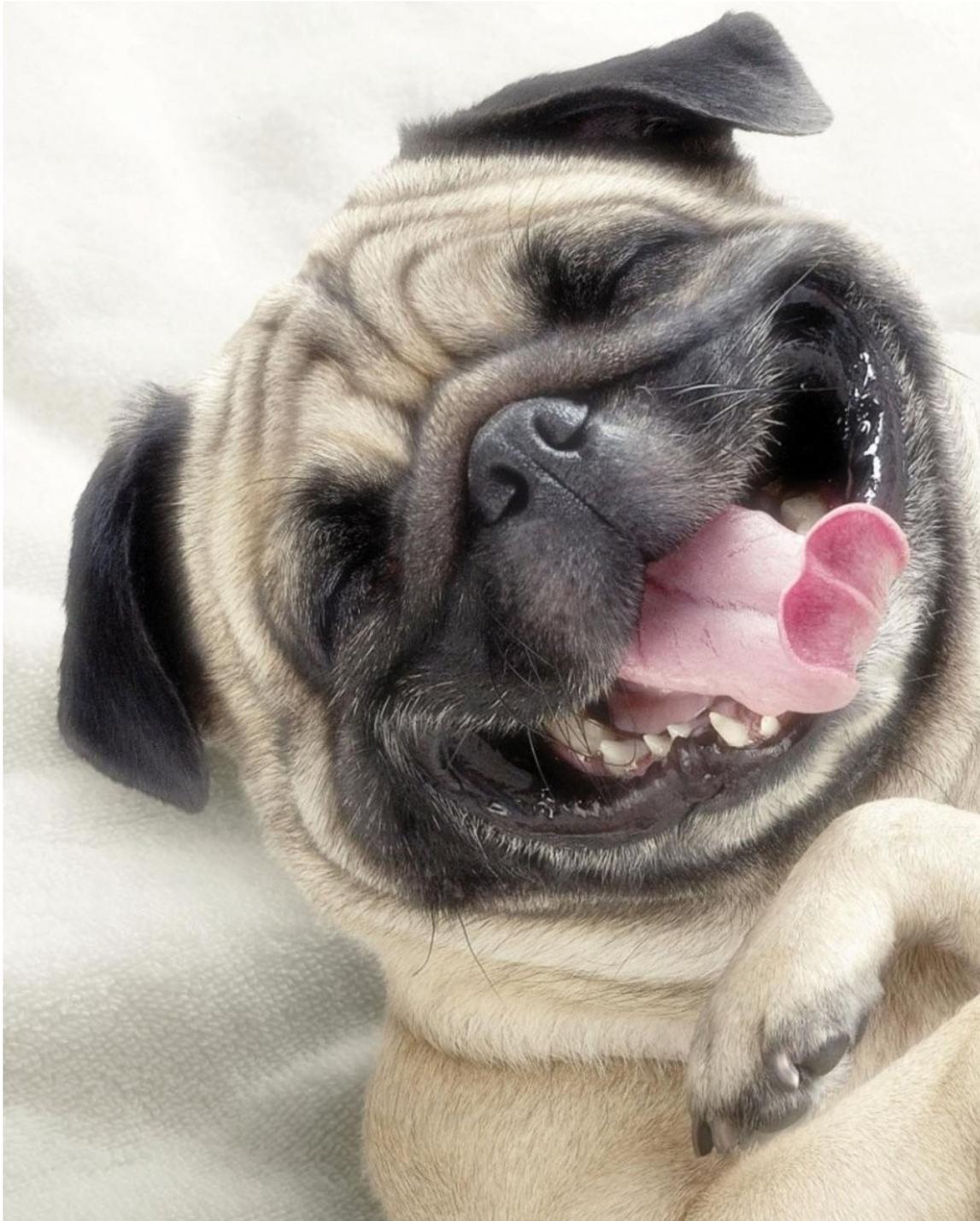
Brushing

This is the absolute gold standard in home dental care! To be most effective, brushing must be done on a daily basis. There are many toothbrushes and toothpastes made for pets available at pet stores and your veterinarian. **NEVER** use human toothpaste or mouthwash, these can contain artificial sweeteners that may be dangerous to your pet and the fluoride can upset their stomach. A slow introduction is essential to training your dog how to

Gels and rinses

As an alternative to brushing there are gels and rinses available. These products are also available through your veterinarian and pet stores and come in many varieties. These products should also be used daily like brushing but require less handling and mouth manipulation for pets who are fearful or sensitive.





Dental Cleaning

Even with home dental care it is recommended that your pet have a professional cleaning as directed by your veterinarian. For some pets this begins at 1-2 years of age and is repeated annually. Some senior pets or those with more severe dental disease may require bi-annual cleanings. Our dental cleanings include blood work, pre-anesthetic medications, intravenous catheter and fluids. We will sedate and intubate your dog to control breathing and protect their airway from bacteria stirred up during the cleaning process, as well as monitor your pet's vitals throughout the procedure and in recovery. Cleaning is done with an ultrasonic scaler to remove tartar buildup on teeth. Your dog's gums will be inspected for gingivitis and periodontal pockets, and the teeth are checked for looseness, fractures, discoloration or any other abnormalities. The oral cavity is also checked for abnormal growths or wounds. Once clean, the teeth are polished and a thin coating of fluoride foam is applied. Any abnormalities involving extraction or filling of periodontal pockets will incur additional cost.



Food

There are important things to look for when selecting dog food for your pets. The life stage claim will tell you if the food is nutritionally adequate. Make sure you have the number of the manufacturer available in case you need to ask any questions specifically concerning any possible recalls. Most important is the ingredients list. Ingredients are listed in order by weight, but this also includes water weight. Chicken may be listed first but once it's heated in the sterilization process you might end up with more of the lower ingredients that have less water weight. Grain free diets are preferred due to a decreased amount of potential mite allergens and some dogs lack the ability to digest the grains properly. Our preferred brands include but are not limited to Fromm, Solid Gold, Wellness, Weruva, Taste of the Wild, Canidae, Orijin, Simply Nourish, Innova, Organix, Iams, Eukanuba, and Royal Canin.

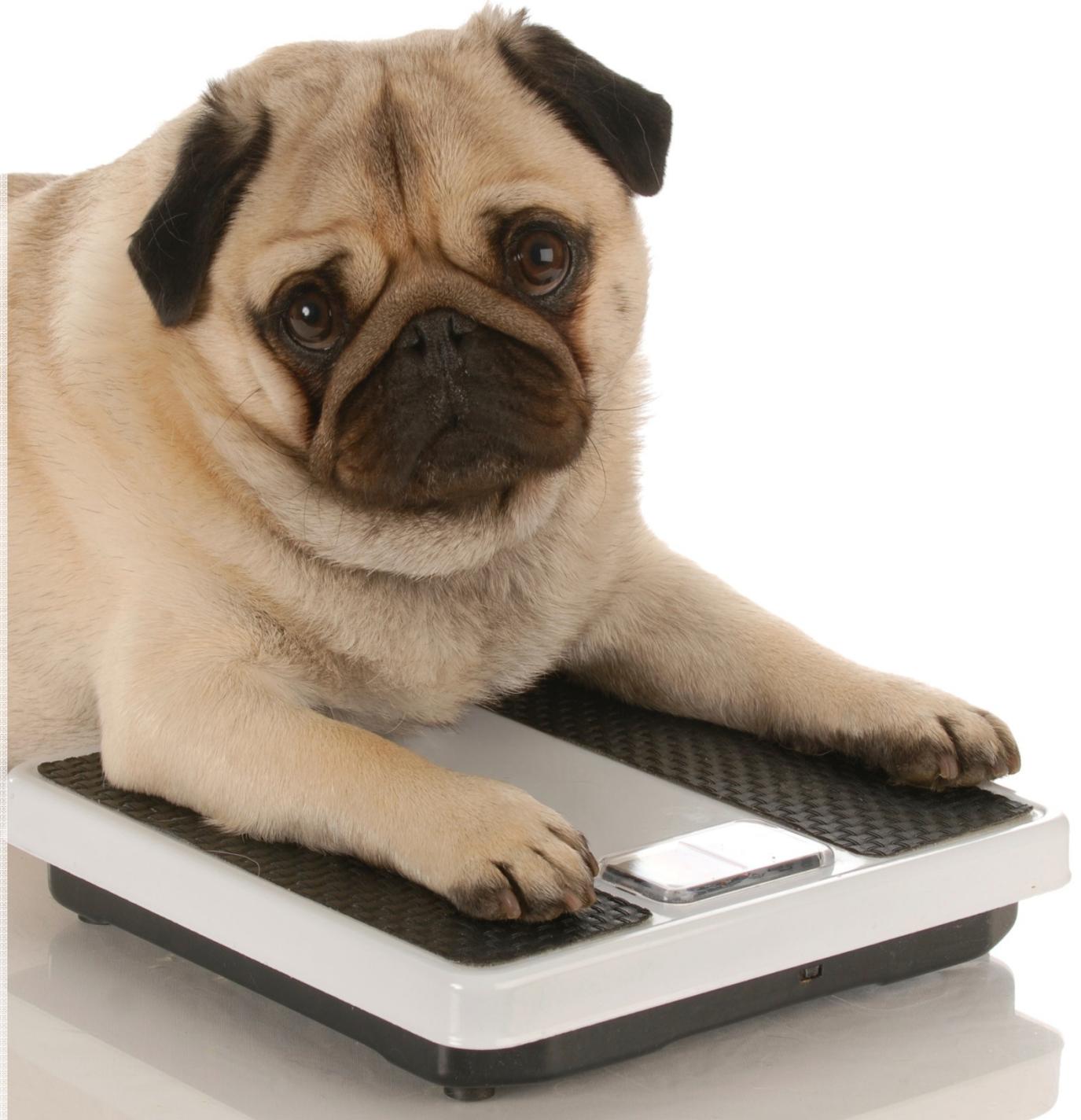
Unsafe Foods



There are some foods that are unsafe and could be potentially fatal to dogs. These include grapes, raisins, chocolate, garlic, onions, avocados, macadamia nuts, and Xylitol (artificial sweetener). Other foods that are unsafe for your pet include fatty foods, raw meat, (exception for commercial raw diets) and raw eggs. If these foods are ingested they can result in pancreatitis, *Salmonella* and/or *E. coli*. Your dog should also avoid rawhide treats, bones, hooves, pig ears, and antlers primary. These treats are choking hazards, but also could carry pathogens.

Weight

52% of dogs in the United States are considered overweight. Obesity can lead to issues with degenerative joint disease, heart disease, kidney disease, ACL injuries, cancer, and take years off their life. Be aware that most dog food labels recommend feedings for intact males, which require more food due to their increased testosterone. We recommend feeding 10-25% less than what the bag recommends. Each visit we will evaluate your pets body condition score to help you maintain a proper weight. If you are having problems maintaining weight, we can calculate calories for your pets ideal weight so you know exactly what to feed them.



Toys



You should offer your new pet a variety of toys to see what his or her preference is. We recommend Nylabones for dogs who are heavy chewers. It is made of durable nylon and will not splinter making it safer than rawhides. Stuff toys are great fun, so long as you keep your dog from eating the stuffing. Enrichment toys are by far the best because they engage your pet's mind and help alleviate boredom. They usually involve toys that you can hide treats inside, and your dog has to figure out how to get the treat out. PetSafe, Kong, and Starmark are a few of our favorites brands.

Training

When welcoming a new dog into your home, there are a few things you can do help set him or her up for success. Provide safe, positive socialization opportunities such as puppy classes to help your dog learn and maintain acceptable behaviors. Reward good behaviors, such as offering a toy when your puppy greets you with a 'sit'. Prevent unwanted behaviors rather than punishing your pet for their mistake. For example, use a crate to keep your puppy from chewing on inappropriate items in your home while you are gone. Keep your training sessions short and fun, so you and your pet don't get frustrated. Find a fun outlet for your dog's energy such as training classes or a canine sport. While these tips can help any dog, they are especially important for developing puppies.





Kennel Training

Kennel training is the fastest and most effective method for house training available for dogs. Dogs have a natural instinct not to soil where they sleep if they can avoid it, and kenneling takes advantage of this behavior. Kennels should be large enough for your puppy to stand, turn around and lie down, but no larger. As a puppy your kennel should be kept where you can hear if your puppy whines, so you can let them go out to potty at night. If your pet continues to whine after going potty do your best to ignore them to reinforce a sleeping schedule. Kennel training is also a very effective method of protecting your puppy from household hazards. Until a pet is fully trained and your house pet proofed, they should be kenneled when you are not present.

Medications

Humans and pets can sometimes share a variety of medications, but it is important to note that the dosing changes dramatically between species, so giving human medication to your pet can be extremely harmful or fatal even if given at a low dose. Some of these medications to avoid include Tylenol, Aspirin, Advil, and other over-the-counter human pain medications. If any human medication is ingested, please seek medical attention for your pet immediately!





Senior Screening

The average age when a dog is considered geriatric or senior is 8 years old. At this age we begin additional screening that may vary with the pet and whether or not he/she has other health issues. We recommend that senior pets have a physical exam every six months to better monitor their health, and additional screening tests may be recommended for the early detection and/or monitoring of health issues.

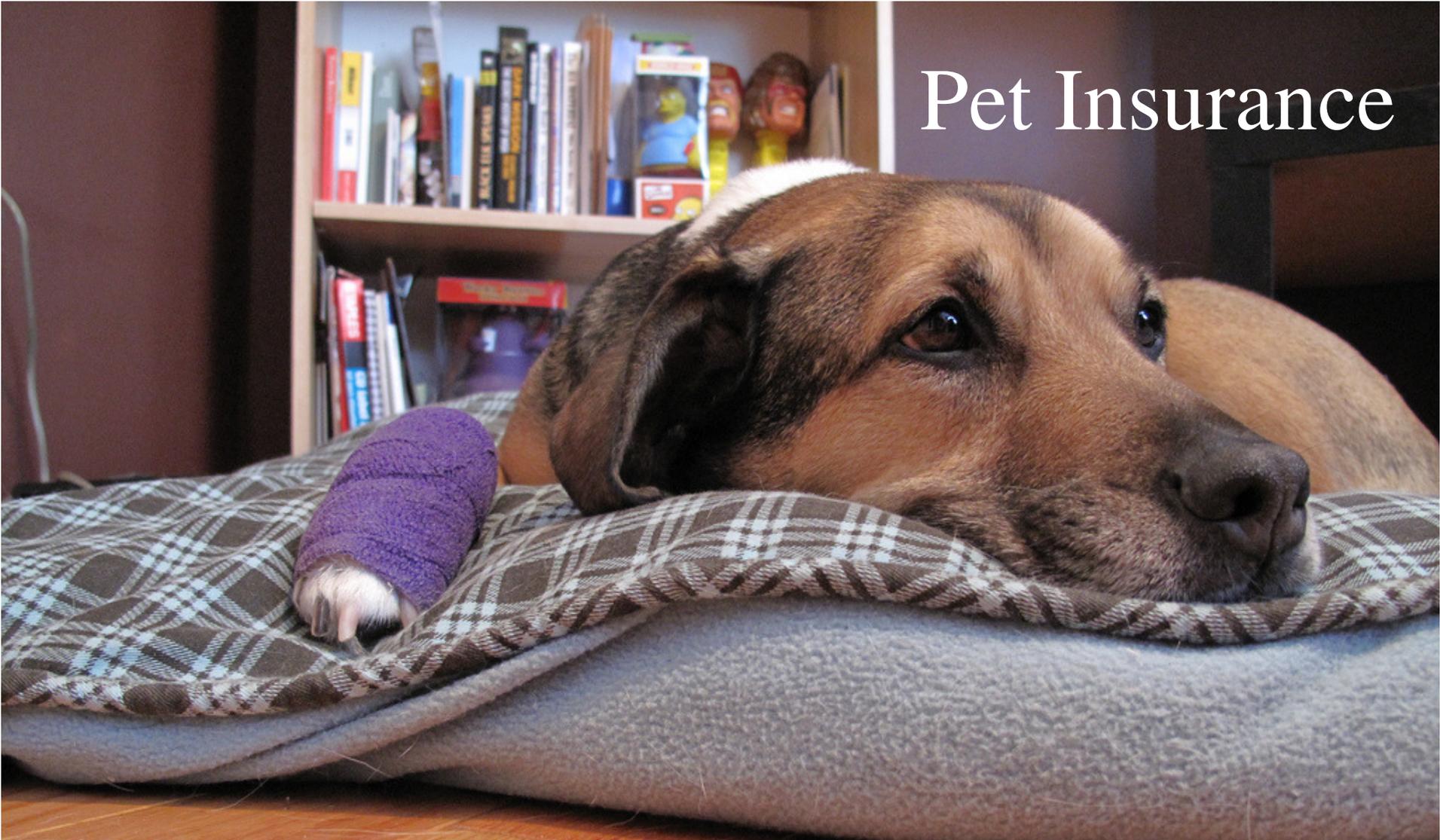
Screening involves collecting and analyzing blood and/or urine samples to look for abnormalities. We can do a variety of testing here at the clinic so you will get same day results, but there are some specialized tests that have to be sent to outside laboratories. Other screening tests might include taking blood pressures or intraocular pressures which can be done in the clinic.

Our clinic also offers home consultations for special needs pets to help provide routine veterinary care and offer improvements to their quality of life.



Acupuncture

Our clinic offers acupuncture services through Dr. Ilka Wagner. Acupuncture utilizes the placement needles along specific points on the body to help bring the body into a state of homeostasis. This can be used in conjunction with modern medicine to treat a variety of health issues. If you are whether your pet could benefit from acupuncture therapy, always feel free to ask.

A close-up photograph of a brown and white dog lying on a plaid blanket. The dog's front left paw is wrapped in a purple cast. The dog is looking towards the right of the frame. In the background, a bookshelf is visible with various books and decorative items.

Pet Insurance

Pet approved medications can save lives, enhance your pet's quality of life and extend its lifespan. These medications, vaccines and medical procedures can be costly in the event of an emergency or protracted illness. Pet health insurance can make difficult decisions regarding your pet's healthcare a bit easier. There are many reputable companies with a wide range of plans and coverage available for your pet, however we recommend Trupanion. Trupanion offer one simple plan, will cover 90% of medical issues, and have no payout limitations. Any pet on insurance will receive discounted examinations from our clinic.



Questions?

Contact Information

Phone: 979-764-7387

Fax: 979-680-7385

Email: aahc@aggielandanimalhealthcenter.com

Website: www.aggielandanimalhealthcenter.com

Or follow us on Facebook!

Business Hours

M-F 7:30 am - 5:30 pm

Sat 7:30 am - 12:00 pm

Sun 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm (Resort pick-up only)