

FOR ALL LIFE STAGES

General (PE and Consultation)

- Conduct a thorough physical exam, including 5 vital assessments (TPR, pain, nutritional assessment).
- Provide transportation advice, including safety (restraint), motion sickness, and anxiety.
- Discuss boarding and grooming.
- Consult about current medications and supplements, nutraceuticals, and herbs.
- Make recommendations concerning frequency of visits.
- Provide or recommend appropriate client education online resources.
- Document and review trends on important clinical parameters in the medical record.

Pet Lifestyle and Safety Risk Assessment

- Discuss and emphasize daily exercise needs appropriate to age.
- Make recommendations concerning exercise, mental stimulation, and enrichment.
- Discuss the pet's exposure to other animals (wild or domestic).
- Discuss housing, confinement, temperature, and sanitation, including general safety considerations.
- Consult on exposure to toxins (plants and other hazards), infectious and parasitic disease (boarding, grooming, dog parks, geographic location, travel, and exposure to other animals).

Zoonoses and Human Safety

- Educate about zoonotic risks including endoparasites (e.g., hookworms, roundworms, tapeworms), dermatophytosis, toxoplasmosis, geographically relevant ectoparasite-transmitted diseases, rabies, *Salmonella*, and *Campylobacter* spp.
- Discuss family member risk factors to zoonotic disease transmission.
- Provide bite prevention education.
- Discuss the importance of properly removing feces from the environment and how to do it.
- Discuss risks of raw food.

Behavior

- Consult on fear and stress-reducing handling and pre-visit anxiolytics.
- Conduct evaluations for specific behaviors of concern.
- Discuss normal behavior.
- Ask open-ended questions about changes and any specific client concerns.
- Advise that behavior recommendations and consultations are available.
- Evaluate emotional and behavioral history.

Nutrition

Regularly evaluate for needed change in nutrition/diet based on reproductive and health concerns.

Conduct screening or extended nutritional assessments as indicated. See *AAHA Nutritional Assessment Guidelines for Dogs and Cats* for additional information.

Discuss supplement use.

Use medical records to identify trends in weight and BCS/MCS.

Modify diet per BCS/MCS.

Evaluate the feeding schedule, food choice, and quantity.

Parasitology

Year-round control of intestinal parasites per CAPC/CDC and *AAHA/AVMA Preventive Care Guidelines*.

Perform routine fecal examination for intestinal parasites.

Recommend year-round heartworm preventive per CAPC and *AAHA/AVMA Preventive HealthCare Guidelines*.

Recommend year-round flea and tick control per CAPC Guidelines or defer to the *AAHA/AVMA Preventive Healthcare Guidelines*, which acknowledge clinical discretion based on risk assessment for tick control.

Perform routine examination for fleas and ticks.

Vaccinations

Evaluate risk assessment and use of noncore vaccinations as indicated, as per current AAHA guidelines.

Evaluate current information about use of serology/vaccine titers.

Dentistry

Evaluate the existence and adequacy of home care/daily dental hygiene.

Perform oral exam and document assessment of dental condition.

Reproduction

Examine genitalia of intact and neutered/spayed animals.

Verify and document neuter/intact status.

Breed-Specific Screening

Evaluate and report findings for genetic or developmental disorders or diseases that occur at higher frequency in particular breeds (e.g., osteoarthritis, neoplasia).

BCS: body condition score
CAPC: Companion Animal Parasite Council
CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
MCS: muscle condition score