**WAYNE ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

**2411 Hamburg Tpk., Wayne, NJ 07470**

**973-839-3737**

Preventative Healthcare for Cats

**It is our intent to offer you optimum healthcare for your feline companions. Our hospital places a strong emphasis on preventative veterinary medicine. Through annual physical exams, age-appropriate diagnostic testing, vaccinations, and information/education we strive for early detection and prevention of disease in our patients.**

1. **An annual physical examination and age-appropriate blood work: A thorough yearly physical examination is one of the most important means of early detection of disease. Based on your cat’s age and physical examination findings, age-appropriate blood screening may be recommended.**
2. **Vaccinations:**
3. **FVRCP vaccination (Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, Panleukopenia): This vaccine protects against three highly contagious viral infections that can cause serious illness in cats. This vaccination is a series of injections 3-4 weeks apart, followed by annual boosters at 1 year, then at 2 years and then 3 years thereafter.**

**B) Rabies vaccination: This vaccine is mandated by state law, even for indoor cats, as Rabies is a prevalent and fatal disease. The first vaccination is given at 3 months of age and boostered thereafter.**

**C) Feline Leukemia and FIV viruses: All cats should be tested for both viruses before entering your household. Cats that test negative and go outdoors should then be vaccinated against Feline Leukemia Virus. This vaccine is an initial series of 2 injections 3-4 weeks apart followed by yearly boosters. Noted veterinary immunologists are recommending an initial 2 series vaccination of Feline Leukemia for all kittens. A new vaccination is available for FIV, but we are not recommending its routine use at this time.**

1. **Fleas and Ticks: Monthly flea and tick preventative is strongly encouraged for outdoor cats and those households with other pets who go outside. Fleas and ticks carry many infectious diseases that are harmful to both humans and cats. Preventing exposure to these agents helps protect the health of both your cat and your family. DO NOT USE OVER THE COUNTER FLEA PRODUCTS without checking with your vet first. May products can be toxic to cats.**
2. **Heartworm Disease: Although traditionally considered a “dog-only” health problem, heartworm disease is now also considered a health threat to cats. Our vets will discuss monthly heartworm preventative, as deemed appropriate, based on your cat’s lifestyle.**
3. **Spaying/neutering: Spaying/neutering at 6-7 months of age is strongly recommended to prevent unwanted pregnancies as well as to prevent multiple health problems as your pet ages (e.g. mammary, uterine infection and in males, territorial marking).**
4. **Litter box: One litter box per cat plus one extra is strongly recommended. Keep the boxes away from high traffic/noisy areas. Scoop boxes daily and change the litter weekly. Clumping litter is acceptable but some cats prefer traditional clay litter. Avoid cleaners that have a strong odor.**
5. **Toys: Cats of all ages should be provided with a variety of toys and scratching posts to provide exercise and to help prevent behavioral problems. NO STRING TOYS!**
6. **Special note to owners of male cats: Straining to urinate, vocalizing during urination, and frequent visits to the litter box without adequate urine production are EMERGENCIES! These signs may be easily mistaken for constipation. If you note this behavior, please seek veterinary attention immediately as he may have a urinary obstruction which is a life-threatening emergency.**