

Pet Health - If Only They Could Talk

Early detection of health problems can save you and your pet from the pain and heartache that illness can cause. As you get to know your pet, you should become familiar with the normal body characteristics, daily habits and personality of your pet. This knowledge will help you to be aware of any changes that occur. Listed below are things that you can monitor in your pet, between your pet's regular veterinary examinations. If you find anything abnormal, call your veterinarian as soon as possible to schedule a thorough exam.

EYES

Should be clear and bright. Redness, swelling or discharge are signs of a problem. Eyelids should be smooth.

EARS

Inside of ears should be a light pink. A small amount of ear wax is normal, but a yellow or brown waxy discharge is not. Redness, swelling or foul odor are signs of infection. Head shaking and ear scratching can be your pet's way of telling you there is something wrong.

NOSE

Clear, watery nasal secretion is normal. Thick, colored or bloody discharge is not.

MOUTH

Teeth should be free of yellow-brown tartar buildup. Gums should be light pink. Bad breath, excessive drooling, inflamed or bleeding gums, and loose or missing teeth are an indication of infection. White or blue gums are indications of more serious internal problems.

BREATHING

Should be even and unlabored. Prolonged sneezing, coughing or shortness of breath are not normal.

DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

Anal area should be clean and free of discharge. Prolonged vomiting, diarrhea or constipation, excessive thirst, frequent urination or blood in the urine or stool are signs of a possible health problem.

BODY

Check entire head, body and legs for lumps and bumps under the skin. Watch feet for signs of injury.

SKIN AND COAT

Coat should be glossy, but not too oily. A dry dull coat, excessive hair loss or odor from the skin can be a sign of incorrect diet or illness. Skin should be free of parasites, redness, sores, and scabs. Excessive scratching, biting or licking of skin or haircoat can signal a problem.

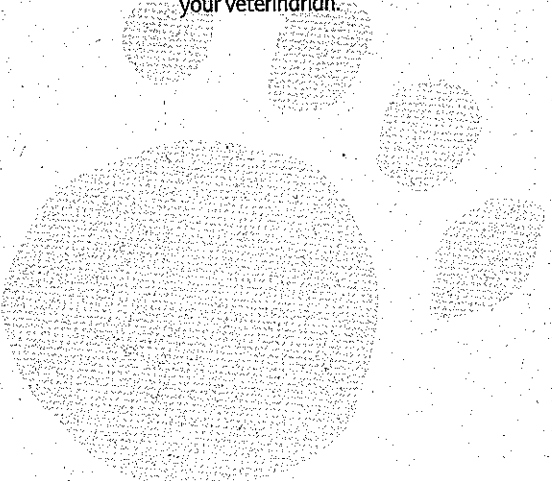
WEIGHT

Your pet should not have excessive body fat. You should be able to feel your pet's ribs, but they should not be protruding or highly visible. Watch for changes in appetite (decrease or increase) and sudden changes in weight (loss or gain).

BEHAVIOR

Watch for changes in activity and energy level, stiffness or limping, loss of house-training and hiding in dark places.

Any prolonged changes in normal habits or behavior patterns can indicate illness and should be discussed with your veterinarian.



ITEM 07-0718684/14-175