The evidence supporting Preventive Care

The Australian Veterinary Association

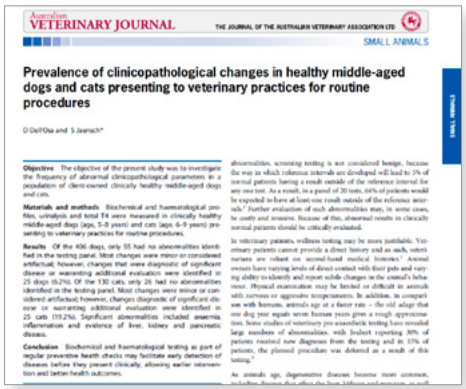
The Australian Veterinary Association has prepared these standards to support veterinarians in offering the highest standard of care to their patients. Regular health checks are one of the building blocks of companion animal practice and are an essential component of responsible pet ownership.

The Australian Veterinary Association believes that owners should be advised of the best available care as set out in these standards.

Available at https://www.ava.com.au/sites/default/files/AVA_website/ASAVA/ASAVA_StandardsofCare_Web.pdf

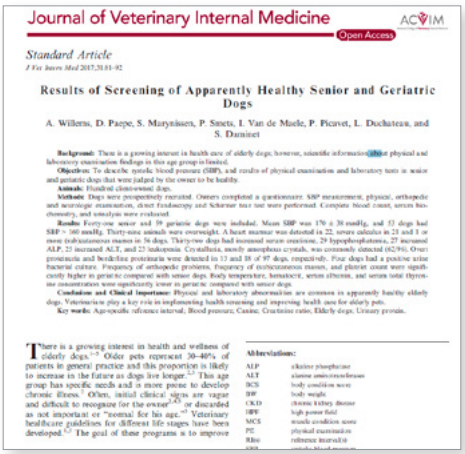
	Juvenile		Adolescent		Adult		Senior		Geriatric	
	Cat	Dog	Cat	Dog	Cat	Dog	Cat	Dog	Cat	Dog
Physical examination	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Temp pulse respiration	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Weight	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Body condition score (1-9)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dental grade (0-4)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pain assessment (0-10)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Diet discussion	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vaccination discussion	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blood pressure					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Haematology and biochemistry			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Urinanalysis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thyroid levels					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Faecal testing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Giardia testing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Flea control discussion	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tick control discussion	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Heartworm discussion	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Git worm control	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pet insurance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Breed predisposition discussion	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Microchip testing / checking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Behaviour discussion	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Published Materials


Australian VETERINARY JOURNAL
THE JOURNAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION LTD
SMALL ANIMALS
Prevalence of clinicopathological changes in healthy middle-aged dogs and cats presenting to veterinary practices for routine procedures

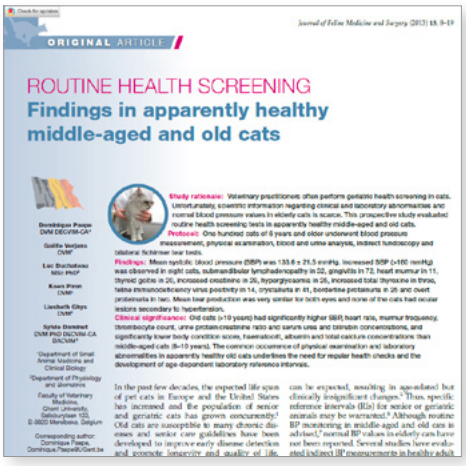
In this study of 'healthy' dogs (n=406) and cats (n=125), results revealed only 13.5% of dogs and 20% of cats had no changes, whereas 6.2% of dogs and 19.2% of cats had changes that were considered significant and warranted further investigation. Examples of significant changes include IRIS Stage 2 kidney disease, liver enzymes over five times the upper end of normal or neutropaenia.

Dell'osa D et al, Australian Veterinary Journal (2016); 94: 317-323


Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine
ACVIM
Open Access
Standard Article
Results of Screening of Apparently Healthy Senior and Geriatric Dogs

In this study of 100 dogs (41 senior and 51 geriatric) that the owners perceived as healthy, a significant number of laboratory abnormalities were detected including azotaemia, elevated liver enzymes and proteinuria.

Willems A et al, Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine (2017); 31: 81-92


ORIGINAL ARTICLE
ROUTINE HEALTH SCREENING
Findings in apparently healthy middle-aged and old cats

In this study of 100 cats (56 middle aged and 44 old) that the owners perceived as healthy, a significant number of laboratory abnormalities were detected including azotaemia and proteinuria.

Paepe D et al, Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery (2013); 15: 8-19.

IDEXX

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