

Pet Notes

Chippewa Veterinary Clinic

14961 81st Ave
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

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Email: chipvet@chippewavet.com

Phone: (715) 723-3655

Website: www.chippewavet.com

Online Pharmacy: chippewavet.vetsfirstchoice.com

Wellness for Life

Wellness Exam

At the Chippewa Vet Clinic we strive to provide excellent health care to ensure your pet a long and healthy life. Studies have shown that ten percent of all pets visiting veterinary clinics have an underlying disease or abnormality. A *wellness exam* thoroughly examines your pet from their teeth to their tail for any signs or symptoms of illness. Early detection of disease is crucial, many times when caught early a simple change in diet or prescription medication can halt or slow the development of disease.

Blood Screen

In addition to wellness exams, a *wellness blood screen* can detect abnormalities in your pet's blood before physical symptoms ever appear. We recommend screening the function of internal organs with a basic chemistry profile during middle age (four years for most pets). If the tests are normal they will serve as an individual normal baseline to monitor for any changes in your pet as he or she ages. Two of the most prevalent diseases in our region are the tick born disease *Lyme* and *Anaplosmosis*. We recommend screening all dogs annually for exposure to both of diseases. This simple blood test can be done at the same time as your pet's annual heart worm exam.

Senior Pets Over 7 Years

As your pet enters his or her golden years we recommend closer monitoring of their wellness with several diagnostic tests. A complete blood count checks for anemia, infections, and clotting function. A complete biochemical blood screen assesses internal organ function. A urinalysis examines for bladder infections and diabetes. For our senior feline patients we also recommend evaluating their thyroid function. If there are any abnormalities other diagnostics available include electrolyte panels, x-rays, glaucoma check, electrocardiogram, ultrasound, and blood pressure.