

Catawba Animal Clinic

2241 India Hook Road Rock Hill, SC 29732

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DOG OWNERS

Pet ownership carries with it the responsibility of being proactive in health care. There are certain steps that you should take to prevent health problems. We recommend the following:

1. Annual life stage exams.
2. Keep vaccinations current.
3. Brush frequently to keep hair from matting. Many dogs do not groom themselves well.
4. Clip toenails as needed to prevent overgrowth.
5. Keep plenty of fresh water available and monitor its consumption.
6. Note any changes in urine output.
7. Monitor social hierarchy to assure all dogs have equal access to food and water.
8. Keep pet dry and warm in winter and cool in summer by providing proper shelter.
9. Monitor your dog's weight by weighing your dog every few months on the same scale and tracking the results.
10. Twenty to thirty minutes of moderate intensity walking/playtime daily. (not a stop and sniff walk)
11. Be aware of environmental hazards such as antifreeze, swimming pools (chemicals and drowning), heat strokes, territorial fighting, dog attacks, and ingestion of foreign bodies such as batteries, needles, coins, and string like material, i.e. dental floss.

EARLY SIGNS OF DISEASE

The following are early signs of disease. Some of these are so minor that they may not seem significant. However, our goal is to diagnose and treat diseases in their early stages when the success rate is much higher. Present your dog for an examination for any of the following:

1. Sustained, significant increase in water consumption.
2. Sustained, significant increase in urination.
3. Weight loss.
4. Significant decrease in appetite or failure to eat for more than two consecutive days.
5. Significant increase in appetite.
6. Repeated vomiting.
7. Diarrhea that lasts over 3 days.
8. Difficulty in passing stool or urine.
9. Change in houstraining, especially if urination or defecation occurs in the house.
10. Lameness that lasts more than 5 days, or lameness in more than one leg.
11. Noticeable decrease in vision, especially if sudden in onset or pupils that do not constrict in bright light.
12. Masses, ulcerations (open sores), or multiple scabs on the skin that persist more than 1 week.
13. Foul mouth odor or drooling that lasts over 2 days.
14. Increasing size of the abdomen.
15. Increasing inactivity or amount of time spent sleeping.
16. Hair loss, especially if accompanied by scratching or if in specific areas (as opposed to generalized).
17. Breathing heavily or rapid at rest.
18. Inability to chew or eat dry food.
19. Coughing or sneezing.
20. Change in behavior such as hiding or irritability.