

# Your Siberian Husky

Caring for Your Faithful Companion



## Siberian Huskies: What a Unique Breed!

Your dog is special! She's your best friend, companion, and a source of unconditional love. Chances are that you chose her because you like Huskies and you expected her to have certain traits that would fit your lifestyle:

- Outgoing, playful personality
- Sweet, gentle, and sensitive
- Always on the go, with a keen eye for adventure
- Good with children
- Friendly and eager to please
- Even-tempered, affectionate, and happy-go-lucky

However, no dog is perfect! You may have also noticed these characteristics:

- Has a tendency to escape, wander, and roam
- Is a bit “mouthy”—likes to carry and chew things
- Likes to dig
- Likely to attack other small animals, including cats
- Prone to boredom and separation anxiety when left alone and will find trouble
- Can be difficult to housetrain

Is it all worth it? Of course! She's full of personality, and you love her for it! She is a loving and docile companion, but she can be independent and willful. With early socialization and consistent leadership, she is a joyful and faithful addition to any family.

The Siberian Husky originated in Siberia and was first imported to Alaska in 1909 for use as a sled dog. Original breeding of Huskies by the Chukchi people of northeast Asia focused primarily on dogs with great endurance and tolerance of harsh climates. The Husky is fastidiously clean and has minimal doggie odor. They are a social breed that craves close human contact; due to this social nature, they do not make good watchdogs. Siberian Huskies are intelligent



## PET MEDICAL CENTER

501 E. FM 2410 • Harker Heights, Texas 76548  
(254) 690-6769

[www.pet-medcenter.com](http://www.pet-medcenter.com)

Your Siberian Husky



© 2013 VetThink, Inc. [www.Genesis4Pets.com](http://www.Genesis4Pets.com)





## your Siberian Husky

### *Dental Disease*

Dental disease is the most common chronic problem in pets, affecting 80% of all dogs by age two. Unfortunately, your Siberian Husky is more likely than other dogs to have problems with her teeth. Dental disease starts with tartar build-up on the teeth and progresses to infection of the gums and roots of the teeth. If we don't prevent or treat dental disease, your buddy may lose her teeth and be in danger of damage to her kidneys, liver, heart, and joints. In fact, your Husky's life span may even be cut short by one to three years! We'll clean your dog's teeth regularly and let you know what you can do at home to keep those pearly whites clean.

### *Infections*

Siberian Huskies are susceptible to bacterial and viral infections — the same ones that all dogs can get — such as parvo, rabies, and distemper. Many of these infections are preventable through vaccination, which we will recommend based on her age, the diseases we see in our area, and other factors.

### *Obesity*

Obesity can be a significant health problem in Siberian Huskies. It is a serious disease that may cause or worsen joint problems, metabolic and digestive disorders, back pain, and heart disease. Though it's tempting to give your pal food when she looks at you with those soulful eyes, you can "love her to death" with leftover people food and doggie treats. Instead, give her a hug, brush her fur or teeth, play a game with her, or perhaps take her for a walk. She'll feel better, and so will you!

### *Parasites*

All kinds of worms and bugs can invade your Husky's body, inside and out. Everything from fleas and ticks to ear mites can infest her skin and ears. Hookworms, roundworms, heartworms, and whipworms can get into her system in a number of ways: drinking unclean water, walking on contaminated soil, or being bitten by an infected mosquito. Some of these parasites can be transmitted to you or a family member and are a serious concern for everyone. For your canine friend, these parasites can cause pain, discomfort, and even death, so it's important that we test for them on a regular basis. We'll also recommend preventive medication as necessary to keep her healthy.

### *Spay or Neuter*

One of the best things you can do for your Husky is to have her spayed (neutered for males). In females, this means we surgically remove the ovaries and usually the uterus, and in males, it means we surgically remove the testicles. Spaying or neutering decreases the likelihood of certain types of cancers and eliminates the possibility of your pet becoming pregnant or fathering unwanted puppies. Performing this surgery also gives us a chance, while your pet is under anesthesia, to identify and address some of the diseases your dog is likely to develop. For example, if your pet needs hip X-rays or a puppy tooth extracted, this would be a good time—it's more convenient for you and easier on your friend too. Routine blood testing prior to surgery also helps us to identify and take precautions against common problems that increase anesthetic or surgical risk. Don't worry; we'll discuss the specific problems we will be

and have an innate desire to work; they are highly active and require vigorous exercise and space to run. Huskies make excellent jogging partners in cool weather! She is not much of a barker, but she is a communal howler especially when bored or under-exercised. The Siberian Husky is a generally healthy breed with an average lifespan of 11-14 years.

### **Your Siberian Husky's Health**

We know that because you care so much about your dog, you want to take good care of her. That is why we have summarized the health concerns we will be discussing with you over the life of your Husky. By knowing about health concerns specific to Siberian Huskies, we can tailor a preventive health plan to watch for and hopefully prevent some predictable risks.

Many diseases and health conditions are genetic, meaning they are related to your pet's breed. There is a general consensus among canine genetic researchers and veterinary practitioners that the conditions we've described herein have a significant rate of incidence and/or impact in this breed. That does not mean your dog will have these problems; it just means that she is more at risk than other dogs. We will describe the most common issues seen in Siberian Huskies to give you an idea of what may come up in her future. Of course, we can't cover every possibility here, so always check with us if you notice any unusual signs or symptoms.

This guide contains general health information important to all canines as well as the most important genetic predispositions for Siberian Huskies. This information helps you and us together plan for your pet's unique medical needs. At the end of the booklet, we have also included a description of what you can do at home to keep your Husky looking and feeling her best. You will know what to watch for, and we will all feel better knowing that we're taking the best possible care of your pal.

## **General Health Information for**

looking for when the time arrives.

## Genetic Predispositions for Siberian Huskies

### *Eye Problems*

Not many things have as dramatic an impact on your dog's quality of life as the proper functioning of his eyes.

Unfortunately, Siberian Huskies can inherit or develop a number of different eye conditions, some of which may cause blindness if not treated right away, and most of which can be extremely painful! We will evaluate his eyes at every examination to look for any signs for concern.

- Cataracts are a common cause of blindness in older Huskies. We'll watch for the lenses of his eyes to become more opaque—meaning they look cloudy instead of clear—when we examine him. Many dogs adjust well to losing their vision and get along just fine. Surgery to remove cataracts and restore sight may also be an option.
- Glaucoma, an eye condition that affects Siberian Huskies and people too, is an extremely painful disease that rapidly leads to blindness if left untreated. Symptoms include squinting, watery eyes, bluing of the cornea (the clear front part of the eye), and redness in the whites of the eyes. Pain is rarely noticed by pet owners though it is frequently there and can be severe. People who have certain types of glaucoma often report it feels like being stabbed in the eye with an ice pick! Yikes! In advanced cases, the eye may look enlarged or swollen like it's bulging. We'll perform an annual glaucoma screening to diagnose and start treatment as early as possible. Glaucoma is a medical emergency. If you see symptoms, don't wait to call us, go to an emergency clinic!
- Pannus is like a suntan on your dog's eyeball. In affected breeds, inflammatory cells infiltrate the cornea (the clear part of the eye), which then darkens with exposure to ultraviolet light, and may lead to complete blindness. It's considered to have a genetic component, since the condition is predominant in certain breeds, like your Siberian Husky. We'll watch his eyes closely for early signs and start preventive eye medications if needed. Doggie sunglasses are also an option to help reduce sun exposure.

### *Bleeding Disorders*

There are several types of inherited bleeding disorders that occur in dogs. They range in severity from very mild to very severe. Many times a pet seems normal until a serious injury occurs or surgery is performed, and then severe bleeding can result. Von Willebrand's disease is a blood clotting disorder frequently found in Siberian Huskies. We'll conduct diagnostic testing for blood clotting times or a specific DNA blood test for Von Willebrand's disease and other similar disorders to check for this problem before we perform surgery.

- Von Willebrand's disease is a blood clotting disorder frequently found in Siberian Huskies. We'll conduct diagnostic testing for blood clotting times or a specific DNA blood test for Von Willebrand's disease and other similar disorders to check for this problem before we

perform surgery.

### *Epilepsy*

There are three types of seizures in dogs: reactive, secondary, and primary. Reactive seizures are caused by the brain's reaction to a metabolic problem like low blood sugar, organ failure, or a toxin. Secondary seizures are the result of a brain tumor, stroke, or trauma. If no other cause can be found, the disease is called primary or idiopathic epilepsy. This problem is often an inherited condition, and Siberian Huskies are commonly afflicted. If your friend is prone to seizures, episodes will usually begin between six months and three years of age. An initial diagnostic workup may help find the cause. Lifelong medication is usually necessary to help keep seizures under control with periodic blood testing required to monitor side effects and efficacy. If your dog has a seizure, carefully prevent him from injuring himself, but don't try to control his mouth or tongue. It won't help him, and he may bite you accidentally! Note the length of the seizure, and call us or an emergency hospital.

### *Laryngeal Paralysis*

Huskies may develop a disease called laryngeal paralysis in which the vocal cords become paralyzed and hang down into the airway. The primary symptom is noisy breathing, especially when outside in hot, humid weather or after exercising, but in severe cases, a pet can collapse and have difficulty breathing as well. Treatment may include environment control and medication. Bring your pet in right away if you notice signs of respiratory distress before the problem becomes a surgical emergency!

### *High Blood Pressure*

Huskies are more likely than other breeds to have high blood pressure, also called hypertension, which may occur independently or be caused by another disease. High blood pressure can cause blindness and strokes in dogs, just as it can in people. We'll test his blood pressure on a regular basis and prescribe blood pressure medication if needed.

### *Heart Disease*

Some breeds, like your Husky, can be born with a variety of heart defects. Most affect the structure of the heart's dividing wall or the vessels of the heart. Defects can also cause problems with heart valve function or the electrical signals that control the heartbeat. Because of the significant risk of heart disease in this breed, we'll pay special attention to his heart during each examination. Special testing will be recommended if we hear a heart murmur or if you notice any unusual symptoms such as tiring easily, coughing, a swollen belly, or fainting. The healthcare chart included in this care guide lists the specific heart problems your pet may encounter.

### *Cancer*

Cancer is a leading cause of death in older dogs. Your Husky will likely live longer than many other breeds and therefore is more prone to get cancer in his golden years. Many cancers are curable by surgical removal, and some types are treatable with chemotherapy. Early detection is critical! We'll perform periodic diagnostic tests and look for lumps and bumps when



we examine your pet. The healthcare chart included in this care guide lists the specific cancers your pet may encounter.

### *Hip Dysplasia*

You've probably heard of hip dysplasia, an inherited disease that causes the hip joints to form improperly and leads to arthritis. Hip dysplasia is common in Siberian Huskies. You may notice that he has lameness in his hind legs or has difficulty getting up from lying down. We'll take X-rays of your dog's joints to identify the disease as early as possible, and we can treat the arthritis—the sooner the better—to avoid discomfort and pain. Surgery is sometimes considered in severe and life-limiting cases of hip dysplasia. And keep in mind that overweight dogs may develop arthritis years earlier than those of normal weight, causing undue pain and suffering.

### *Inflammatory Bowel Disease*

Inflammatory bowel disease, or IBD, is an immune system disorder common in Huskies in which the intestinal lining becomes overrun with immune system cells called lymphocytes and plasmacytes. The stomach and/or intestinal lining becomes thickened, affecting his ability to absorb nutrients properly. Chronic vomiting or diarrhea is common, or symptoms may flare up suddenly and then improve again for a time. Stress, diet change, or intestinal parasites can make IBD worse. If your friend has diarrhea or digestive upsets that are not explained by more common reasons, diagnostic tests, which may include intestinal biopsy, will be needed. Lifelong medications and special diets are usually required to keep IBD under control.

### *Degenerative Myelopathy*

Degenerative myelopathy is a neurologic condition, similar to ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease in people, that causes weakness and poor nerve function in the hind legs. It affects Huskies more frequently than other breeds. If your dog has this disease, he will become increasingly weak and disabled in the hind legs, eventually suffering from paralysis in his hindquarters, which also leads to incontinence. Rehabilitation, exercise, acupuncture, and dietary supplements can be helpful, but there is no cure for degenerative myelopathy. A genetic test is available to determine whether your dog is at risk for this heritable disease.

### *Autoimmune Skin Disease*

Pemphigus foliaceus is a superficial skin disease that is more common in Siberian Huskies. It often starts around four years of age and causes crusts and hair loss, usually on top of the nose and inside the ear flaps. Some dogs get it on their footpads and toenails as well. Bacteria easily invade the damaged areas, so secondary skin infections are common. Skin crusts typically wax and wane; there is no cure, but there are a variety of effective treatments. Sunlight makes it worse, so applying zinc-free sunscreen to sensitive parts before heading outdoors can help.

- Uveodermatologic syndrome is a complex disease found more frequently in Siberian Huskies than other breeds. "Uveo" refers to the inside of the eye and "derm" refers to the skin. This condition is an autoimmune disorder in which the immune system attacks the cells that make pigment in the skin and inside the eyes. It can cause pain or blindness in the eyes and can cause the pigmented areas of his nose, lips, and skin to change from dark to light. Sunlight can also worsen the effects this condition.

### *Skin Infections*

Huskies are prone to a form of skin infection called zinc-responsive dermatosis in which a pet either doesn't get enough zinc in his diet or his body doesn't absorb it properly. Signs include red, hairless, crusting, scaling, or oozing skin around the mouth, chin, eyes, or ears, and lesions on the foot pads or nose. If your dog develops this disease, we'll prescribe a carefully regulated amount of added zinc to his diet.

### *Thyroid Problems*

Huskies are prone to a common condition called hypothyroidism in which the body doesn't make enough thyroid hormone. Signs can include dry skin and coat, hair loss, susceptibility to other skin diseases, weight gain, fearfulness, aggression, and other behavioral changes. We'll conduct a blood test annually to screen for this disease. Treatment is usually as simple as replacement hormones given in the form of a pill.

### *Bladder Disease*

The ureters are small tubes that allow urine from the kidneys to flow into the bladder where urine is safely stored until the dog decides to urinate. Occasionally in Siberian Huskies, however, one of these tubes forms incorrectly, taking urine past the bladder instead of into the bladder itself. Urine that doesn't enter the bladder will drip out on its own instead of on command. This condition is called ectopic ureter. The problem can be diagnosed either by x-rays or by an ultrasound of the bladder, and the ureter can be reattached through surgery.

### *Liver Enzyme*

Hyperphosphatemia is a condition in which elevated levels of the enzyme alkaline phosphatase, or ALP, are present in the bloodstream. Affected Siberian Huskies usually show no signs of illness, although microscopic examination of their livers may reveal abnormalities within the liver cells. Usually, hyperphosphatemia is not serious and does not require treatment, however, other serious diseases may also cause the ALP enzyme to be elevated, so we'll want to rule out other problems before diagnosing your pet with this condition.

## **Taking Care of Your Siberian**

## Husky at Home

Much of what you can do to keep your dog happy and healthy is common sense, just like it is for people. Watch her diet, make sure she gets plenty of exercise, regularly brush her teeth and coat, and call us or a pet emergency hospital when something seems unusual (see “What to Watch For” below). Be sure to adhere to the schedule of examinations and vaccinations that we recommend for her. This is when we’ll give her the necessary “check-ups” and test for diseases and conditions that are common in Huskies. Another very important step in caring for your pet is signing up for pet health insurance. There will certainly be medical tests and procedures she will need throughout her life and pet health insurance will help you cover those costs.

### *Routine Care, Diet, and Exercise*

Build her routine care into your schedule to help your Husky live longer, stay healthier, and be happier during her lifetime. We cannot overemphasize the importance of a proper diet and exercise routine.

- ✓ Supervise your pet as you would a toddler. Keep doors closed, pick up after yourself, and block off rooms as necessary. This will keep her out of trouble and away from objects she shouldn’t put in her mouth.
- ✓ Give her a thorough brushing at least weekly most of the year. Twice a year she blows her coat and loses crazy amounts of hair; daily brushing is recommended during this time.
- ✓ Siberian Huskies generally have good teeth, and you can keep them perfect by brushing them at least twice a week!
- ✓ Clean her ears weekly, even as a puppy. Don’t worry—we’ll show you how!
- ✓ She’s a smart dog with lots of energy, so keep her mind and body active, or she’ll get bored. That’s when the naughty stuff starts.
- ✓ She has a high prey drive, so she needs to be leash walked and a sturdy fence is a must.
- ✓ Huskies can be affected by snow nose, or a loss of pigment in the nose, making her prone to sunburn. She will need dog-safe (zinc-free) sunscreen.
- ✓ Keep your dog’s diet consistent and don’t give her people food.
- ✓ Feed a high-quality diet appropriate for her age.
- ✓ Exercise your dog regularly, but don’t overdo it at first.

### *What to Watch For*

Any abnormal symptom could be a sign of serious disease or it could just be a minor or temporary problem. The important thing is to be able to tell when to seek veterinary help and how urgently. Many diseases cause dogs to have a characteristic combination of symptoms, which together can be a clear signal that your Siberian Husky needs help.

### *Office calls*

Give us a call for an appointment if you notice any of these types of signs:

- ✓ Change in appetite or water consumption
- ✓ Tartar build-up, bad breath, red gums, or broken teeth
- ✓ Itchy skin (scratching, chewing, or licking); hair loss
- ✓ Lethargy, mental dullness, or excessive sleeping
- ✓ Fearfulness, aggression, or other behavioral changes
- ✓ Dull coat, hair loss; sluggish, weight gain
- ✓ Lumps or bumps – regardless of size

### *Emergencies*

Seek medical care immediately if you notice any of these types of signs:

- ✓ Scratching or shaking the head, tender ears, or ear discharge
- ✓ Inability or straining to urinate; discolored urine
- ✓ Cloudiness, redness, itching, or any other abnormality involving the eyes
- ✓ Any abnormal shaking, trembling, or excessive involuntary tremors
- ✓ Louder than normal panting, especially when hot or after exercise
- ✓ Tiring easily, coughing, a swollen belly or fainting/collapse
- ✓ Leg stiffness; reluctance to rise, sit, use stairs, run, or jump; “bunny hopping”
- ✓ Dragging the hind toes or hind limb weakness

## Genetic/DNA Testing

DNA analysis is a rapidly advancing field in healthcare for people and pets. Luckily, technologies exist to screen for hundreds of inherited diseases in pets, just like in people. By screening each pet for as many genetic diseases as possible, we will be better prepared to care for your pet throughout life. This is an important step in caring for your pet because it’s always better to know your pal is at risk for a genetic disease before the problem is untreatable.

In an effort to screen for as many genetically linked diseases as possible, we may recommend the **K9Genetics™ Disease Screen** to screen for more than 150 genetic mutations that cause disease.



Each **K9Genetics™ Disease Screen** Screens for

- ✓ Over 30 Musculoskeletal Problems
- ✓ Over 30 Metabolic Conditions
- ✓ Over 30 Eye Conditions
- ✓ Over 25 Blood and Clotting Disorders
- ✓ Over 10 Immune System Diseases
- ✓ Over 10 Urinary Tract Problems
- ✓ 10 Skin and Hair Conditions
- ✓ Cancer
- ✓ Dental Disease
- ✓ Drug Metabolism
- ✓ Heart Problems
- ✓ Hormonal Conditions
- ✓ Liver/Gastrointestinal Diseases
- ✓ Midline Defect
- ✓ Neuromuscular Diseases
- ✓ Reproduction Problems
- ✓ Respiratory Conditions

This one-time test is one of the best decisions you can make for your Husky's medical care. With less than a few drops of blood, we'll have a lifetime of information to assist us in providing the very best care of your friend's unique and individual needs throughout her life!

For more information about genetic testing, visit <http://www.k9genetics.com>

Your Husky counts on you to take good care of her, and we look forward to working with you to ensure that she lives a long and healthy life. Our goal is to provide the best health care possible: health care that's based on her breed, lifestyle, and age. Please contact us when you have questions or concerns:

**Pet Medical Center**  
**254-690-6769**

*References:*

*Ackerman L. The Genetic Connection: A Guide to Health Problems in Purebred Dogs. Second edition. AAHA Press; 2011.*  
*Bell JS, Cavanagh KE, Tilley LP, Smith FW. Veterinary medical guide to dog and cat breeds. Jackson, Wyoming. Teton New Media; 2012.*  
*Gough A, Thomas A. Breed Predispositions to Disease in Dogs and Cats. 2nd Edition. Wiley-Blackwell; 2010.*  
*Crook A, Dawson S, Cote E, MacDonald S, Berry J. Canine Inherited Disorders Database [Internet]. University of Prince Edward Island. 2011. [cited 2013 May 8]. Available from: <http://ic.upei.ca/cidd/breed/siberian-husky>*  
*Breed Specific Health Concerns [Internet]. American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation, Inc. [cited 2013 May 8]. Available from: <http://www.akcchf.org/canine-health/breed-specific-concerns/?breed=siberian-husky>*

# Puppy to Adolescent Health Care Recommendations

How We'll Keep Your Siberian Husky	Puppy to Adolescent: Infant to 17 in People Years		(√)	Age	Services We'll Provide	Siberian Husky-Specific Problems We're Looking For
	○	6–9 weeks	Head-to-tail physical examination Eye disease screen Heart health check Internal organ health evaluation Blood disorder evaluation Parasite detection/prevention Vaccinations Discuss socialization and at-home puppy care	Breed-specific physical abnormalities plus Dental alignment, heart murmur, hernia Cataracts Ventricular septal defect and Tetralogy of fallot Ectopic ureter and Laryngeal paralysis Hemophilia		
	○	10–13 weeks	Head-to-tail physical examination Eye disease screen Heart health check Internal organ health evaluation Blood disorder evaluation Parasite detection/prevention Vaccinations Discuss caring for your dog's teeth and ears at home	Breed-specific physical abnormalities plus Cataracts Ventricular septal defect and Tetralogy of fallot Ectopic ureter and Laryngeal paralysis Hemophilia and Hyperphosphatemia		
	○	14–16 weeks	Head-to-tail physical examination Eye disease screen Heart health check Internal organ health evaluation Blood disorder evaluation Parasite prevention Vaccinations Schedule spay/neuter surgery Discuss obedience and grooming	Breed-specific physical abnormalities plus Cataracts Ventricular septal defect and Tetralogy of fallot Ectopic ureter and Laryngeal paralysis Hemophilia and Hyperphosphatemia		
	○	4–6 months	Head-to-tail physical examination Eye disease screen Heart health check Internal organ health evaluation Bone and joint exam Blood disorder evaluation Pre-surgical diagnostics Spay/neuter surgery Discuss microchipping	Breed-specific physical abnormalities plus Cataracts Ventricular septal defect and Tetralogy of fallot Ectopic ureter and Laryngeal paralysis Hip dysplasia Hemophilia and Hyperphosphatemia		
	○	6 months to 1 year	Head-to-tail physical examination Eye disease screen Heart health check Skin and coat exam Internal organ health evaluation Bone and joint exam Neurological assessment Blood disorder evaluation Parasite prevention Vaccinations Discuss lifetime genetic considerations	Breed-specific physical abnormalities plus Cataracts Ventricular septal defect and Tetralogy of fallot Zinc responsive dermatosis and Uveodermatologic syndrome (VKH) Ectopic ureter and Laryngeal paralysis Hip dysplasia Epilepsy Hemophilia and Hyperphosphatemia  All major diseases important in the breed with diagnostic plan		

## Adult to Golden Years Health Care Recommendations

How We'll Keep Your Siberian Husky		(✓)	Age	Services We'll Provide	Siberian Husky-Specific Problems We're Looking For
	Adult: 18 to 39 in People Years	○	2 years through 6 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Head-to-tail physical examination</li> <li>Eye disease screen</li> <li>Heart health check</li> <li>Skin and coat exam</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal organ health evaluation</li> <li>Endocrine screening</li> <li>Bone and joint exam</li> <li>Neurological assessment</li> <li>Blood disorder evaluation</li> <li>Parasite prevention</li> <li>Vaccinations</li> <li>Discuss behavior and nutrition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breed-specific physical abnormalities plus</li> <li>Cataracts, Glaucoma, and Pannus</li> <li>Hypertension</li> <li>Zinc responsive dermatosis, Uveodermatologic syndrome (VKH), and Lupus erythematosus</li> <li>Laryngeal paralysis and Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)</li> <li>Hypothyroidism</li> <li>Hip dysplasia</li> <li>Epilepsy</li> <li>Hemophilia and Hyperphosphatemia</li> </ul>
	Senior: 40 to 59 in People Years	○	7 years through 9 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Head-to-tail physical examination</li> <li>Eye disease screen</li> <li>Heart health check</li> <li>Skin and coat exam</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal organ health evaluation</li> <li>Endocrine screening</li> <li>Bone and joint exam</li> <li>Neurological assessment</li> <li>Blood disorder evaluation</li> <li>Parasite prevention</li> <li>Vaccinations</li> <li>Discuss mental and physical well-being</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breed-specific physical abnormalities plus</li> <li>Cataracts, Glaucoma, and Pannus</li> <li>Hypertension</li> <li>Zinc responsive dermatosis, Uveodermatologic syndrome (VKH), and Lupus erythematosus</li> <li>Laryngeal paralysis and Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)</li> <li>Hypothyroidism</li> <li>Hip dysplasia</li> <li>Epilepsy</li> <li>Hyperphosphatemia</li> </ul>
	Golden Years: 60+ in People Years	○	10 years and older	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Head-to-tail physical examination</li> <li>Eye disease screen</li> <li>Heart health check</li> <li>Skin and coat exam</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal organ health evaluation</li> <li>Endocrine screening</li> <li>Bone and joint exam</li> <li>Neurological assessment</li> <li>Cancer screen</li> <li>Blood disorder evaluation</li> <li>Parasite prevention</li> <li>Vaccinations</li> <li>Discuss mental and physical well-being</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breed-specific physical abnormalities plus</li> <li>Cataracts, Glaucoma, and Pannus</li> <li>Hypertension</li> <li>Zinc responsive dermatosis, Uveodermatologic syndrome (VKH), and Lupus erythematosus</li> <li>Laryngeal paralysis and Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)</li> <li>Hypothyroidism</li> <li>Hip dysplasia</li> <li>Epilepsy and Degenerative myelopathy</li> <li>Anal sac adenocarcinoma and Sebaceous gland tumor</li> <li>Hyperphosphatemia</li> </ul>

Note: We recommend twice-a-year examinations so that we may diagnose problems sooner. This approach also gives you the budget-friendly option of spreading preventive testing over two visits rather than one.