

WELCOME TO COBB & CO

Your guide to lifelong feline wellness.



 **COBB & CO**
VETERINARY CLINIC

847-741-6770
www.cobb.vet

WELCOME TO COBB & CO

We're excited to partner with you in your cat's care.

At Cobb & Co Veterinary Clinic, we believe preventative medicine and early detection are some of the most important tools for helping cats live longer, healthier lives. Our goal is to provide thoughtful, individualized care tailored to your cat's age, lifestyle, and medical needs.

Routine wellness visits allow us to:

- Monitor weight and body condition
- Assess dental health
- Maintain vaccine protection
- Screen for parasites and infectious disease
- Detect subtle medical concerns before they become more serious

Cats are *extremely* good at hiding illness and discomfort. Changes in appetite, grooming, behavior, activity level, or litter box habits are often some of the earliest signs that something may be wrong.

Regular exams and screening tests help us identify concerns early — often before cats show obvious symptoms.

As your cat ages and changes, our recommendations may evolve as well. We are here to guide you through every stage of life, from young adulthood through the senior years.

As a locally owned practice, we are proud to build long-term relationships with the families we serve. Our team values thoughtful communication, individualized care, and a collaborative approach to keeping pets healthy throughout life.

Preventative care is not one-size-fits-all. We tailor recommendations to your cat's individual lifestyle and risk factors.

Our goal is for you to leave every visit feeling informed, supported, and confident in your cat's care.

We're glad you're here.

ADULT CAT QUICK GUIDE

CALL IMMEDIATELY IF...

- Straining to urinate or not urinating
- Trouble breathing
- Collapse or inability to stand
- Repeated vomiting
- Pale, white, or blue gums
- Sudden hiding or extreme lethargy
- Ate something toxic
- Seizure activity
- Hit by car or injured

Cats often hide illness until they are very sick.
When in doubt - call.

VACCINES

Core:
FVRCP • Rabies

Lifestyle:
FeLV

Your cat's vaccine recommendations are based on lifestyle, exposure risk, travel, and overall health.

YEAR-ROUND PREVENTION

- ✓ Heartworm prevention
- ✓ Flea & tick prevention
- ✓ Routine fecal testing

Even indoor cats benefit from preventative care.

WELLNESS CARE

Routine wellness visits help us:

- ✓ Detect disease earlier
- ✓ Monitor weight and body condition
- ✓ Maintain vaccine protection
- ✓ Screen for parasites and infectious disease
- ✓ Identify subtle changes before they become serious

Adult cats: yearly exams

Senior cats: twice yearly exams

DENTAL HEALTH

Dental disease is extremely common in adult cats and often progresses silently. Signs may include:

- Bad breath
- Dropping food
- Decreased grooming
- Difficulty chewing

Routine dental care helps prevent pain and infection.

SUBTLE SIGNS MATTER

Contact us if you notice:

- Weight loss
- Increased thirst or urination
 - Changes in appetite
 - Hiding more than usual
- Changes in grooming habits
 - Litter box changes

Cats often show only very subtle signs of illness. Sudden behavior changes are often medical, not behavioral.

WHEN YOUR PET NEEDS CARE

DURING BUSINESS HOURS – CALL US FIRST

We offer same-day urgent care and emergency appointments during business hours whenever medically appropriate.

We prioritize urgent cases and make every effort to accommodate same-day needs.

If your cat is sick, injured, or you're unsure how serious something is – call us. Our team will guide you on the next best step.

When possible, we prefer to examine your pet here – where we know their history and can coordinate follow-up care.



Call: 847-741-6770



Text: 847-713-1530



Book Online: www.cobb.vet or scan here



AFTER HOURS OR LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCIES

For true emergencies outside our business hours, proceed directly to the nearest emergency hospital.

Thrive – Hoffman Estates Emergency

2700 W Higgins Rd
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
618-495-5010

Dundee Animal Hospital Emergency

199 Penny Ave
East Dundee, IL 60118
847-428-6114

Elk Grove Veterinary Specialty & Emergency

1050 Bonaventure Dr
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
847-584-0200

VEG (Veterinary Emergency Group) – Schaumburg

1287 E Higgins Rd
Schaumburg, IL 60173
847-430-4938

Emergency Veterinary Services - St. Charles

530 Dunham Rd
St. Charles, IL 60174
630-584-7447

Veterinary Specialty Center – Bannockburn

2051 Waukegan Rd
Bannockburn, IL 60015
847-459-7535

COMMON HOUSEHOLD TOXINS

Accidental exposures can happen at any age.

Cats are especially sensitive to many common medications, plants, and household products. Even small exposures can become serious quickly.

Call Cobb & Co First

Call: 847-741-6770

If after hours, contact:

ASPCA Animal Poison Control
888-426-4435

Save these phone numbers in your phone now.

TOXIC MEDICATIONS

- Ibuprofen, naproxen, acetaminophen
 - ADHD medications
 - Antidepressants
 - Heart medications
- Vitamins and supplements

Even small amounts can be dangerous.

TOXIC PLANTS

- Lilies (extremely toxic to cats)
 - Sago palm
 - Tulips
 - Daffodils

Even small exposures to lilies - including pollen or vase water - can cause life-threatening kidney failure.

HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

- Cleaning solutions
 - Rodenticides
 - Insecticides
 - Essential oils
- THC/marijuana products

SIGNS OF TOXICITY

- Vomiting or diarrhea
 - Drooling
- Tremors or seizures
- Lethargy, weakness, or collapse
 - Pale gums
- Difficulty breathing

If you notice any of these symptoms, seek care immediately.

IMPORTANT

Do not induce vomiting at home unless instructed by a veterinarian.

Bring the product packaging or a photo of the label if possible.

PREVENTATIVE WELLNESS CARE

VACCINES

Vaccines protect against serious and potentially life-threatening diseases. At Cobb & Co, we use both “core” vaccines (recommended for all cats) and vaccines recommended based on lifestyle and exposure risk.

Your cat’s vaccine recommendations are tailored to their age, health, environment, and overall risk factors.

FVRCP

Protects against three common and highly contagious viral diseases in cats.

- **Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis (Herpesvirus)** – Causes upper respiratory infection with sneezing, nasal discharge, eye inflammation, and fever. The virus can remain dormant and reactive during stress.
- **Calicivirus** – Another respiratory virus that can cause sneezing, oral ulcers, fever, and sometimes pneumonia.
- **Panleukopenia (Feline Distemper)** – A severe and often fatal virus that attacks the immune system and gastrointestinal tract. It spreads easily in the environment.

Rabies

Required by Illinois state law. Rabies is a fatal viral disease that affects the nervous system and can be transmitted to humans and wildlife. Even indoor cats are at risk through exposure to bats or other wildlife.

FeLV (Feline Leukemia Virus)

A contagious viral disease spread primarily through close contact with infected cats. FeLV can cause:

- Immune suppression
- Chronic infections
- Anemia
- Certain cancers

FeLV vaccination is recommended for cats with outdoor exposure and for cats living with other cats whose status is unknown.

Indoor Cats Still Benefit from Vaccination

Even strictly indoor cats benefit from preventative care and appropriate vaccination.

Viruses may enter the home on clothing, shoes, carriers, or visiting animals, and exposure risks can change unexpectedly over time.

PARASITE PREVENTION

Parasites are common – even for indoor cats. Consistent prevention helps protect both your cat and your household.

HEARTWORM DISEASE

Heartworms are spread through mosquito bites and can cause serious disease in cats.

Unlike dogs, cats often carry only a small number of worms, but infection may still cause:

- Coughing or wheezing
- Vomiting
- Difficulty breathing
- Sudden collapse
- Sudden death

Mosquitoes can enter homes easily, which means indoor cats are still at risk.

Because heartworm disease is difficult to diagnose and treat in cats, prevention is especially important.

INTESTINAL PARASITES

Cats may be exposed to intestinal parasites through fleas, hunting behavior, contaminated soil or litter, exposure to infected animals.

Many cats show no visible symptoms, though parasites may cause vomiting, diarrhea, weight loss, or poor coat quality.

Routine fecal testing helps us identify parasites that might go otherwise unnoticed. Some intestinal parasites can infect humans.

EXTERNAL PARASITES (FLEAS & TICKS)

We recommend year-round flea and tick prevention for all cats. Fleas may enter the home through other pets, humans bringing fleas indoors, shared environments, and wildlife exposure.

Flea infestations can develop surprisingly quickly indoors.

PREVENTATIVE PRODUCTS

Cats are extremely sensitive to certain medications and topical products. Never use dog flea/tick products on cats unless specifically instructed by a veterinarian.

We recommend purchasing preventatives through a veterinarian or trusted veterinary pharmacy to ensure proper storage, manufacturer guarantees, and product authenticity.

Your veterinarian will recommend products based on your cat's lifestyle, environment, and risk factors.

Curious about parasite trends in our area? Visit www.capcvet.org for interactive maps based on local testing data.

FECAL SCREENING

Many intestinal parasites show no visible symptoms. Routine testing helps us detect parasites early and protect both your cat and your household.

Why Do We Test?

Cats may be exposed to intestinal parasites through:

- Fleas
- Hunting behavior
- Contaminated litter boxes or environments
- Exposure to infected animals
- Outdoor access

Many cats with parasites appear completely healthy.

Routine testing helps identify infections before they cause illness or spread within the environment. Some intestinal parasites can infect humans, especially young children or immunocompromised individuals.

If you have concerns about parasite transmission to people, speak with your (human!) physician.

How to Collect a Sample

- Provide a fresh sample (approximately one teaspoon)
- Use a sealed plastic bag or small container
- Collection kits are available at Cobb & Co free of charge
- Avoid paper towels, wipes, glass jars, or medication bottles

How Often Should Testing Be Performed?

Routine fecal testing is recommended even for cats receiving regular preventative care. We recommend fecal testing every 6 months; more frequently for cats with higher exposure risk.

Additional testing may be recommended if your cat develops diarrhea, vomiting, weight loss, or changes in stool quality.

Results

- Results are typically available within 48 business hours
- Negative results are sent via text message
- Positive results are communicated by phone with treatment instructions

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & SPAY / NEUTER

Spaying and neutering provide important health and behavioral benefits for cats.

If your cat is already spayed or neutered, routine wellness care remains an important part of long-term reproductive and hormonal health monitoring.

Potential Benefits of Spaying

- Eliminates the risk of pyometra (life-threatening uterine infection)
- Greatly reduces the risk of mammary cancer when performed early in life
- Prevents unwanted litters
- Eliminates heat cycles

Potential Benefits of Neutering

- Eliminates the risk of testicular cancer
- May reduce urine spraying and roaming behaviors
- May reduce fighting-related injuries
- Prevents unwanted litters

Monitoring Intact Cats

Cats that remain intact may require additional monitoring throughout life.

Examples may include:

- Mammary masses
- Pyometra risk in females
- Testicular disease
- Hormone-driven behaviors
- Roaming or fighting-related injuries

Routine wellness exams help us monitor for these concerns and discuss changes as your cat ages.

MICROCHIPPING

A microchip provides permanent identification and significantly increases the likelihood of reunion if your pet becomes lost.

Collars and tags can fall off. A microchip stays with your cat for life.

How Microchipping Works

- A small microchip (about the size of a grain of rice) is placed just under the skin
- Each chip contains a unique identification number
- Veterinary clinics and animal shelters can scan the chip to access your registered contact information

Placement is quick and similar to a routine vaccine. Microchipping can be performed during a wellness visit or at the time of a surgical procedure.

Why We Recommend It

- Provides permanent identification
- No batteries or maintenance required
- Dramatically increases reunion rates
- Safe and widely used

Even indoor cats may escape unexpectedly during moves, travel, visitors entering the home, or stressful situations.

Microchipping is one of the simplest and most effective ways to help protect your cat.

Registration Is Essential

We use Petlink as our microchip registry and register all microchips we implant on your behalf at the time of placement.

You will receive confirmation from Petlink with instructions for accessing and managing your account. Please review your contact information carefully and keep it up to date.

If your pet was microchipped elsewhere, we are happy to help you identify the chip company and confirm that registration is complete and up to date.

If your phone number, address, or email changes, update your Petlink account promptly to ensure you can be reached if your pet is found.

DENTAL CARE

Dental health is an important part of your cat's overall wellness. Dental disease is extremely common in adult cats and often progresses silently over time.

Cats frequently continue eating normally even while experiencing significant oral pain.

Why Dental Care Matters

- Dental disease causes pain and inflammation, bad breath, and tooth loss
- Prevention is far easier (and less costly) than treatment

Cats commonly develop a painful condition called **tooth resorption**, where the tooth slowly breaks down over time. These lesions are extremely painful but are often difficult to detect without a full oral examination and dental x-rays.

Dental disease is *the most common medical condition* in adult cats. Without consistent home care, most cats show signs by three years of age.

Home Care Recommendations

Daily brushing is the gold standard for preventing dental disease.

- Use toothpaste formulated for cats (never human toothpaste)
- Start slowly and keep sessions positive; consistency matters more than perfection

If daily brushing is not possible, we can discuss alternatives such as dental diets, treats, or water additives. Visit VOHC.org for additional proven methods to help prevent dental disease.

Professional Dental Cleanings

Most cats require professional dental cleanings over time.

- Performed under general anesthesia for a safe and thorough evaluation and cleaning
- Includes full oral examination and dental x-rays
- Allows treatment of painful or infected teeth

Routine dental assessments are part of every wellness visit.

Our Philosophy

Dental care is preventative medicine.

Routine evaluations and consistent home care help prevent pain, infection, and more advanced disease later in life.

NUTRITION

Proper nutrition plays an important role in long-term health, immune function, body condition, and quality of life.

Maintaining a healthy body weight is one of the most effective ways to support lifelong wellness in cats.

Choosing a Diet

We recommend feeding a complete and balanced commercial diet appropriate for your cat's age, lifestyle, body condition, and medical needs.

Look for diets that:

- Meet AAFCO standards
- Are produced by companies with veterinary nutrition expertise
- Have undergone feeding trials

If you have questions about specific diets, ingredients, or supplements, we're happy to guide you.

Weight Management

Obesity is one of the most common health concerns in adult cats. Excess weight may contribute to:

- Arthritis and mobility issues
- Diabetes
- Grooming difficulties
- Reduced activity and quality of life

Small changes in weight over time can have a major impact on long-term health.

Unexpected weight loss should also be evaluated promptly, as cats often show subtle signs of illness.

Feeding & Hydration

Cats naturally have a low thirst drive, making hydration especially important. Some cats benefit from canned or mixed feeding to help support water intake.

Fresh water should always be available.

We may recommend adjustments in feeding style, portion control, or diet type depending on your cat's lifestyle and medical needs.

We are happy to review your cat's diet at any visit.

GROOMING & COAT CARE

Cats spend a significant amount of time grooming themselves. Changes in grooming habits are often one of the earliest signs that something may be wrong.

Regular coat and nail care support comfort, skin health, and early detection of medical concerns.

Brushing & Coat Care

Regular brushing helps reduce shedding, prevent matting, remove debris and loose hair, and reduce hairballs.

Long-haired cats and senior cats often benefit from more frequent brushing.

Cats that are overweight, arthritic, or ill may have difficulty grooming normally.

Changes in Grooming Habits

Contact us if you notice:

- Decreased grooming
- Greasy or unkempt fur
- Matting
- Excessive shedding
- Overgrooming or hair loss

Changes in coat quality are often associated with underlying medical or behavioral concerns.

Nail Care

Most cats benefit from routine nail trims. Overgrown nails may become painful, grow into paw pads, or interfere with normal movement.

Senior cats especially may require more frequent nail monitoring and trimming.

We are happy to trim nails during visits or demonstrate proper technique if needed.

Ears & Skin

Healthy ears and skin should be clean, dry, and odor-free.

Contact us if you notice redness, discharge, odor, or frequent head shaking.

HEALTHY AGING & WELLNESS

As cats age, their medical needs often change gradually over time. Preventative care and routine monitoring help us identify concerns early and support long-term quality of life.

Cats are extremely good at hiding illness and discomfort, which is why subtle changes are often important.

Routine Wellness Matters

Regular wellness visits allow us to monitor:

- Weight & body condition
- Mobility & joint health
- Dental health
- Kidney and thyroid health
- Heart & lung health
- Behavioral & cognitive changes

Senior cats often benefit from more frequent monitoring & screening tests.

Mobility & Arthritis

Arthritis is extremely common in adult and senior cats, though many show only subtle signs.

Signs may include:

- Changes in grooming habits
- Sleeping more
- Difficulty using stairs
- Hesitation jumping onto furniture
- Irritability or reduced social interaction
- Litter box accidents

Cats rarely limp dramatically even when experiencing chronic pain.

Cognitive & Behavioral Changes

Behavior changes can sometimes reflect underlying medical concerns.

Examples may include:

- Increased anxiety
- Restlessness at night
- Increased vocalization
- Disorientation or confusion

If something about your cat seems different, trust your instincts and let us know.

Our Philosophy

Healthy aging is about more than simply growing older.

Our goal is to help cats remain comfortable, engaged, and maintain a good quality of life throughout every stage of aging.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT & BEHAVIOR

A cat's environment plays an important role in both physical and emotional wellness.

Mental stimulation, predictable routines, and appropriate environmental resources help reduce stress and support long-term health.

Indoor Cats Need Enrichment

Even indoor cats benefit from opportunities to engage in natural behaviors such as:

- Climbing
- Scratching
- Hiding
- Hunting and play
- Exploring
- Resting in elevated spaces

Environmental enrichment helps support confidence, activity, and emotional wellbeing.

Helpful Environmental Resources

Many cats benefit from:

- Scratching posts or pads
- Window perches
- Puzzle feeders or interactive toys
- Cat trees or vertical spaces
- Multiple resting areas
- Quiet retreat spaces

Rotating toys and enrichment activities may help maintain interest and stimulation.

Our Philosophy

Behavior and emotional wellbeing are important parts of overall health.

Our goal is to help cats feel safe, comfortable, and successful in their environment.

Litter Box Considerations

Litter box setup can significantly impact feline comfort and behavior.

General recommendations include:

- One litter box per cat, plus one extra
- Scoop daily
- Place boxes in quiet, accessible locations
- Avoid sudden litter changes whenever possible
- Cats often prefer large, uncovered litter boxes with easy access.

Litter box changes are often medical — not behavioral.

When to Reach Out

Please contact us if you notice:

- Increased hiding
- Aggression
- Urinating outside the litter box
- Sudden vocalization changes
- Excessive grooming
- Sudden behavior changes

Behavior concerns are often easier to address early.

PET INSURANCE

Unexpected illness or injury can happen at any age. Pet insurance helps families prepare for the financial side of veterinary care so decisions can be based on what is best for your pet – not just cost.

Why Consider Pet Insurance?

- Helps offset the cost of accidents and unexpected illness
- Provides financial flexibility during emergencies
- Allows access to advanced diagnostics and treatment when needed
- Can reduce stress during already difficult situations

Cats often hide illness until disease is more advanced, making diagnostic testing especially important when concerns arise.

When to Enroll

Pet insurance may still provide value for many adult cats, though coverage and pricing vary depending on age, medical history, and pre-existing conditions.

- Most policies do not cover pre-existing conditions
- Premiums are often lower when pets are enrolled young
- Waiting periods may apply before coverage begins

Review policy details carefully so you understand what is covered and what is excluded.

What to Look For in a Policy

Every company and policy is different. We encourage families to compare options and choose the plan that best fits their needs and budget. Consider asking:

- What is covered / not covered?
- How are reimbursements calculated?
- Are there per-year or lifetime caps?
- Are pre-existing conditions excluded?

Our Role

We do not endorse specific insurance companies. We are happy to provide medical records and documentation needed for claims and to answer questions about treatment plans.