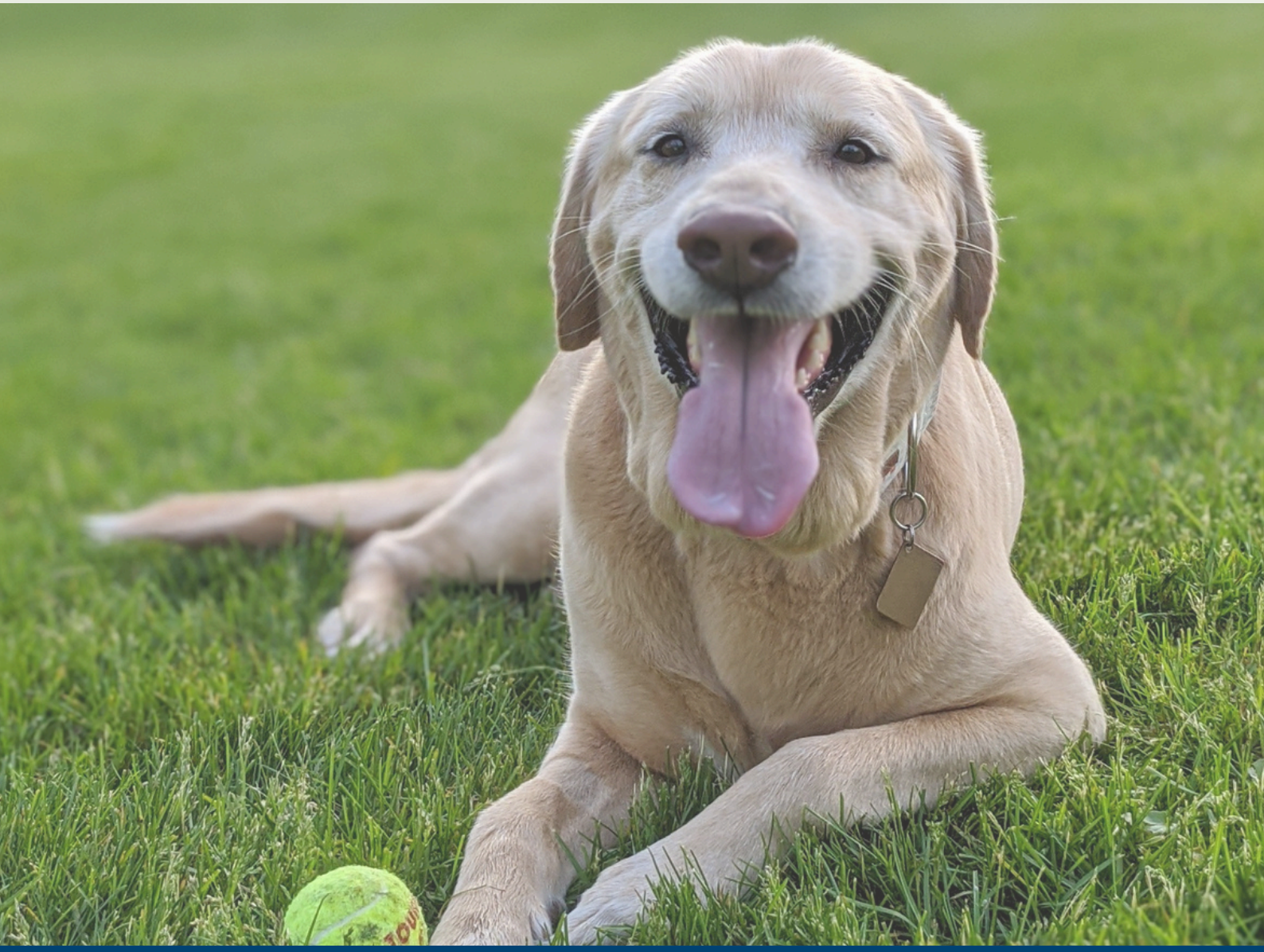
WELCOME TO COBB & CO

Your guide to lifelong wellness & preventative care.



COBB & CO
VETERINARY CLINIC

847-741-6770
www.cobb.vet

WELCOME TO COBB & CO

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

At Cobb & Co Veterinary Clinic, we believe preventative medicine and early detection are some of the most important tools for helping pets live longer, healthier lives. Our goal is to provide thoughtful, individualized care tailored to your dog'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 tick-borne disease
- Detect medical concerns before they become more serious

As dogs age, subtle changes in behavior, mobility, appetite, or energy level can sometimes be the first sign that something is wrong. Regular exams and screening tests help us identify concerns early - often before pets show obvious symptoms.

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 dog's individual lifestyle, risk factors, and stage of life.

As your dog grows 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.

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

We're glad you're here.

ADULT DOG QUICK GUIDE

CALL IMMEDIATELY IF...

- Vomiting or diarrhea more than once
- Blood in vomit or stool
- Collapse or inability to stand
- Sudden weakness or severe lethargy
- Bloated or painful belly
- Repeated dry heaving
- Pale, white, or blue gums
- Trouble breathing
- Seizure or sudden disorientation
- Ate something toxic
- Hit by car or injured
- Straining to urinate or not urinating

Do not give human medications.
When in doubt - call.

VACCINES

Core:
DAPP • Leptospirosis • Rabies

Lifestyle:
Lyme • Canine Influenza • Bordetella

Your dog's vaccine recommendations are based on lifestyle, exposure risk, travel, daycare, boarding, grooming, and overall health.

YEAR-ROUND PREVENTION

✓ Heartworm prevention
✓ Flea & tick prevention
✓ Fecal test every 6 months
✓ Heartworm/tick test yearly

WELLNESS CARE

Adult dogs benefit from routine wellness exams, even when they appear healthy.

Wellness visits allow us to:

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

Adult dogs: yearly exams
Senior dogs: twice yearly exams

DENTAL HEALTH

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

- Bad breath
- Tartar buildup
- Inflamed gums
- Difficulty chewing

Routine dental care helps prevent pain and infection.

WHAT'S NOT "JUST GETTING OLDER"

Contact us if you notice:

- Increased drinking or urination
- Weight loss
- Decreased mobility
- Persistent coughing
- Appetite changes
- Behavior changes
- New lumps or bumps

Subtle changes are often the first sign of medical disease.

Call: 847-741-6770 | Text: 847-713-1530 | Email: info@cobb.vet | Book Online: www.cobb.vet

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 dog 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.
If you suspect your dog has ingested something concerning, call us right away.

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 FOODS

- Chocolate
- Xylitol (found in sugar-free gum, candy, some peanut butter)
- Grapes and raisins
- Onions and garlic
- Alcohol
- Caffeine
- THC/marijuana products

TOXIC MEDICATIONS

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

Even small amounts can be dangerous.

HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

- Cleaning solutions
- Rodenticides
- Insecticides
- Fertilizers
- Essential oils

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 dogs) and vaccines recommended based on exposure risk. Your dog's vaccine recommendations are tailored to their age, lifestyle, travel, social activity, and overall health.

DAPP

Protects against four serious viral diseases commonly encountered anywhere dogs gather, including neighborhoods, parks, and shared outdoor spaces.

- **Distemper** – A severe virus affecting the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and nervous systems.
- **Adenovirus (Hepatitis)** – Causes liver infection.
- **Parainfluenza** – Contributes to kennel cough.
- **Parvovirus** – Highly contagious; causes severe vomiting and diarrhea and can be fatal in puppies.

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.

Leptospirosis

A bacterial infection spread through wildlife, standing water, and contaminated soil. Can cause kidney and liver failure and is transmissible to humans. Even suburban backyard dogs are at risk.

Lyme

Spread by ticks common in Illinois. May cause joint pain, fever, lethargy, and in severe cases, irreversible kidney damage.

Bordetella

Protects against kennel cough, a highly contagious respiratory infection spread in training classes, daycare, boarding, grooming, and dog parks.

Influenza

Protects against canine flu, a highly contagious respiratory virus. Symptoms may include coughing, fever, nasal discharge, lethargy, and pneumonia (in severe cases). Recommended for dogs that frequently socialize in daycare, boarding, grooming, training classes, or dog parks.

Vaccine recommendations may evolve over time as your dog's lifestyle and risk factors change.

PARASITE PREVENTION

Parasites are common — even in suburban environments. Consistent, year-round prevention protects both your dog and your family.

HEARTWORM DISEASE

Heartworms are spread through mosquito bites and live in the heart and lungs. Infection can cause serious, life-threatening disease if untreated. Heartworm disease may lead to:

- Chronic coughing
- Exercise intolerance
- Heart failure
- Lung damage
- Death

Yearly heartworm testing is recommended even for dogs receiving prevention regularly.

Monthly preventatives are available in-clinic or through our online pharmacy. Some dogs may also be candidates for yearly injectable prevention.

INTESTINAL PARASITES

Dogs can be exposed to intestinal parasites through soil or grass contaminated with stool, wildlife exposure, dog parks/outdoor spaces, fleas, and predation/scavenging.

Many dogs show no visible symptoms, but parasites may cause diarrhea, vomiting, weight loss, or poor stool quality.

Routine fecal testing helps us identify parasites that may go unnoticed. Some parasites can infect humans.

EXTERNAL PARASITES (FLEAS & TICKS)

We recommend year-round flea and tick prevention.

- Fleas reproduce rapidly and may quickly infest your home.
- Ticks spread Lyme, Ehrlichia, and Anaplasma
- Ticks can be active anytime temperatures exceed 40° — which in Illinois can even happen in January

PREVENTATIVE PRODUCTS

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 dog's age, lifestyle, travel, 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. Early detection protects both your dog and your family.

Why Do We Test?

Dogs can be exposed to intestinal parasites through:

- Soil or grass contaminated with stool
- Wildlife exposure
- Fleas
- Shared outdoor spaces such as parks or trails
- Predation or scavenging behaviors

Many dogs with parasites appear completely healthy.

Routine testing helps detect parasites 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)
- Avoid contamination with soil, grass, or lawn chemicals
- 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 dogs receiving regular preventative care.
We recommend fecal testing every 6 months; more frequently for dogs with higher exposure risk.

Additional testing may be recommended if your dog 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 can provide important health and behavioral benefits for many dogs. Recommendations may vary depending on age, breed, lifestyle, and medical history.

If your dog 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 roaming and some hormone-driven behaviors
- May reduce the risk of certain prostate diseases
- Prevents unwanted litters

Individualized Recommendations

There is no universal "right" answer for every dog. Our recommendations are based on factors including:

- Breed and body size
- Lifestyle and environment
- Behavior
- Medical history
- Current clinical evidence

We believe preventative care should be individualized for each patient.

Monitoring Intact Dogs

Dogs that remain intact may require additional monitoring throughout life. Examples may include:

- Mammary masses
- Prostate enlargement
- Testicular disease
- Pyometra risk in females

Routine wellness exams help us monitor for these concerns and discuss changes as your dog 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 pet 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

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

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 dog's overall wellness. Dental disease is extremely common in adult dogs and often progresses silently over time.

Many dogs continue eating normally even while experiencing significant oral discomfort.

Why Dental Care Matters

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

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

Home Care Recommendations

Daily brushing is the gold standard for preventing dental disease.

- Use a soft toothbrush or finger brush
- Use toothpaste formulated for dogs (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, chews, or water additives. Visit VOHC.org for additional proven methods to help prevent dental disease.

Professional Dental Cleanings

Even with good home care, most dogs 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.

Small breed dogs often develop dental disease earlier and more severely.

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, mobility, immune function, and quality of life.

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

Choosing a Diet

We recommend feeding a complete and balanced commercial diet appropriate for your dog's age, activity level, 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 brands or ingredients, we're happy to guide you.

Weight Management

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

- Arthritis and mobility issues
- Diabetes
- Heart disease
- Reduced quality of life

Your dog should have:

- A visible waist
- A gentle abdominal tuck
- Easily palpable ribs without excess fat covering

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

Treats and Supplements

Treats should make up no more than 10% of daily calories.

Avoid:

- Excessive table scraps
- Rawhide chews (risk of obstruction)
- Unbalanced homemade diets

Fresh water should always be available.

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

GROOMING & COAT CARE

Regular grooming supports skin health, comfort, and early detection of medical concerns.

Routine grooming also helps identify changes that might otherwise go unnoticed, including skin infections, ear disease, parasites, or new lumps and bumps.

Brushing

Frequency depends on coat type:

- Short coats: weekly brushing
- Medium to long coats: several times per week
- Curly or continuously growing coats: daily brushing may be needed

Brushing helps remove debris, prevent matting, and reduce shedding.

Bathing & Professional Grooming

- Bathe as needed (typically every 4–6 weeks)
- Use a shampoo formulated for dogs
- Avoid over-bathing, which can dry the skin
- Some breeds require professional grooming every 4–8 weeks
- Introduce grooming early and choose experienced, patient groomers

If your dog develops itching, redness, or persistent odor, contact us before using medicated products.

Nail Care

- Most dogs require trims every 2–4 weeks
- Nails should not click loudly on hard floors
- Overgrown nails may contribute to discomfort, altered posture, gait changes, and difficulty walking on hard surfaces.

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

Ears

Check ears weekly. Healthy ears are clean, dry, and odor-free.

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

HEALTHY AGING & WELLNESS

As dogs 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.

Many age-related changes are subtle at first and may develop slowly over months or years.

Routine Wellness Matters

Regular wellness visits allow us to monitor:

- Weight & body condition
- Mobility & joint health
- Dental health
- Vision & hearing changes
- Heart & lung health
- Behavioral & cognitive changes

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

Changes That May Seem Like "Normal Aging"

Please contact us if you notice:

- Increased drinking or urination
- Weight loss or gain
- Difficulty getting up or jumping
- Slowing down on walks
- Changes in appetite
- Coughing
- Increased anxiety or confusion
- New lumps or bumps

These changes are common - but they are not always simply part of aging.

Mobility & Arthritis

Arthritis is extremely common in adult and senior dogs. Signs may include:

- Slowing down on walks
- Difficulty using stairs
- Hesitation jumping into cars or onto furniture
- Stiffness after resting
- Changes in activity level

Many dogs show subtle signs of chronic pain long before owners recognize them.

Cognitive & Behavioral Changes

Behavior changes can sometimes reflect underlying medical concerns. Examples may include:

- Increased anxiety
- Restlessness at night
- House training regression
- Increased vocalization
- Disorientation or confusion

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

Our Philosophy

Healthy aging is about more than growing older. Dogs age much faster than humans, which is why routine wellness screening becomes increasingly important over time.

Our goal is to help dogs remain comfortable, active, and engaged throughout every stage of life.

TRAINING & BEHAVIOR RESOURCES

Training and behavior are important parts of overall wellness. Dogs continue learning throughout life, and behavior changes are often influenced by routine, environment, stress, health, and past experiences.

Many adult and newly adopted dogs benefit from ongoing training, structure, and enrichment.

What to Look For in a Trainer

Choose trainers who:

- Use positive reinforcement methods
- Avoid punishment-based techniques
- Emphasize socialization in a controlled setting
- Encourage owner involvement

Training should build trust — not fear.

Mental & Physical Enrichment

Dogs benefit from opportunities to engage in natural behaviors such as:

- Sniffing and exploring
- Problem-solving
- Interactive play
- Safe chewing activities
- Training sessions

Mental stimulation is just as important as physical exercise.

When to Seek Additional Help

Contact us if you notice:

- Persistent fearfulness
- Aggression toward people or other dogs
- Resource guarding
- Severe separation anxiety
- Escalating behavior concerns

Behavior concerns are often easier to address early.

We are happy to discuss training resources, behavior support, and referrals when appropriate.

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
- Unexpected illness or injury can arise quickly, even in otherwise healthy pets.

When to Enroll

Pet insurance may still provide value for many adult dogs, 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.