

Pet News by Drs. Jones and Gensel

Why is a physical examination of my pet important?

Veterinarians are often compared to human pediatricians. The similarity stems from the fact that our patients are often not able to explain to us what hurts or that they do not feel well. We rely on important information relayed by our patients' owners and the information collected from a physical exam. The physical exam is a vital and essential tool used to assess the overall health of your pet.

A thorough physical exam includes a nose-to-tail inspection of your pet. We evaluate their ears, eyes, nose, and throat, dental health, lymph nodes, skin, abdomen, nutritional status, and their heart and lungs. Each physical exam from puppyhood through old age provides an important benchmark about what is normal for your pet, which ultimately helps us in the future establish when your pet is ill. This is why a yearly physical exam is provided prior to visits for vaccination. Elizabethtown Veterinary Hospital believes in practicing proactive medicine and the physical exam is a key component in helping to provide the pets of our community quality care.