

# YOUR PET'S ILLNESS WON'T ALWAYS BE OBVIOUS.

Frequently asked questions

## My pet seems fine. Why should I schedule regular wellness visits?

- Looks can be deceiving. 10% of pets that appear healthy to owners and veterinarians during annual checkups are found to have hidden diseases.<sup>1</sup>
- Many diseases show few, if any, signs during the initial stages of infection. When signs do become visible, often it is because infection has become serious.
- Just like with people, your cat's or dog's health will change as it ages. And because pets age faster than people, major health changes can happen fast.
- Wellness testing leads to the early detection of disease. With early detection and treatment, your pet has a better chance at a positive prognosis.

## How do I know if my pet is at risk?

- Pets—especially cats—are great at keeping illnesses hidden from owners and veterinarians. Sometimes wellness testing is the only way to know for sure if your pet has been infected.
- Rather than testing when a pet appears sick, wellness visits are a proactive approach to maintaining your pet's good health. Focused on early detection, wellness testing is also essential to preventing serious disease.
- As your pet's age and excess weight increase, their risk for becoming ill also increases. Wellness testing establishes a baseline for your individual pet that can be used to monitor their health as they age.

## What can I do to help?

- Schedule an annual wellness visit for your pet. Regular checkups can help your veterinarian detect disease, even if your pet shows no signs of being sick.
- Watch for changes in your pet's health. Tell your veterinarian immediately if you notice any changes in behavior or health, especially if you have a senior cat or dog.
- Help your pet live a healthy lifestyle. Nutrition and exercise are essential to your pet's well-being, so make sure they eat right and play often.

Reference:

1. Rehm M. Seeing double. *Vet Econ*. 2007;48(10):40-48

© 2010 IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. All rights reserved.  
09-69099-01-W1 • All ®/TM marks are owned by IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. or its affiliates in the United States and/or other countries. The IDEXX Privacy Policy is available at [idexx.com](http://idexx.com).

