

Preventive Vet Care's Pivotal Role in Your Pet's Health

By Rick Yocum, CNE
Executive Director, Humane Society of Manatee County

The Humane Society of Manatee County (HSMC) Veterinary Clinic offers a wide range of preventive veterinary services at low-to-moderate cost. The 10,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art HSMC Veterinary Clinic is located at 2415 14th Street W. in Bradenton and is open to the public by appointment.

The Humane Society of Manatee County is proud to announce that our Wellness Director, Dr. Lindsay Rollend, is now board certified in veterinary preventive medicine. Veterinarians who are board certified in veterinary preventive medicine have specialized knowledge and training. They are at the front lines keeping our pets safe, advocating for animal welfare, protecting the food supply, preventing and controlling foreign diseases from entering the United States, responding to natural disasters and protecting the environment. These veterinarians lead and serve their communities. All diplomats in the American College of Veterinary Medicine, according to the organization's mission statement, are "...dedicated to improving the health of animals, humans and the environment."

Preventive veterinary care is a crucial element in maintaining your pet's health and well-being. It includes a variety of services designed to prevent diseases and promote the health of animals rather than waiting for health problems to arise. These preventive measures range from regular check-ups, vaccinations and flea and tick prevention to heartworm prevention and treatment and dental procedures.

The cornerstone of preventive care is regular veterinary examinations. A pet's health can change rapidly as most animals age at a much faster rate than humans. Consequently, it's recommended that healthy adult pets visit the vet at least once a year, while older pets or those with health conditions may require more frequent visits. These check-ups are not just about detecting potential health issues but are also an opportunity for veterinarians to provide education on home care, behavior and diet.

A critical aspect of preventive vet care is vaccination. This is one of the most effective methods of disease prevention in pets. By stimulating the immune system to recognize and fight specific viruses or bacteria, vaccines protect pets from many dangerous diseases, some of which can be fatal.

Vaccines are typically categorized into "core" and "non-core." Every pet should receive core vaccines, while non-core immunizations are given based on a pet's specific risk factors.

Parasite control is another essential facet of preventive vet care. Regular flea and tick prevention treatments, as well as heartworm prevention, are important for all pets, regardless of their lifestyle. Fleas and ticks are not just irritants; they can transmit diseases that can be potentially life-threatening.

Dental care is often an overlooked part of preventive care, yet dental diseases can lead to serious health complications if left

untreated. Regular dental check-ups along with home brushing can go a long way in preventing dental disease.

Nutrition and exercise play a pivotal role in preventive vet care. Providing a balanced diet and regular physical activity can help maintain a pet's optimal weight and overall health, thus preventing obesity-related health issues.

Preventive veterinary medicine is helping to keep people, animals and the environment safe and healthy. Routine care of animals, including spaying and neutering, vaccinations, flea and heartworm prevention and fecal testing, is preventive medicine. So are some initiatives that you may not be as familiar with, such as disaster preparedness and animal welfare.

The Pets Evacuation Transportation Standards Act of 2006, for example, was enacted to prevent pets from being lost and left to wander after natural disasters where they can be a threat to people and other animals or become ill from exposure to diseases and toxins.



*Rick Yocum, CNE
Executive Director of the
Humane Society of Manatee County*



**Preventive veterinary care is a
crucial element in maintaining
your pet's health & well-being.**

As another example, antibiotic stewardship promotes the appropriate use of antibiotics in a world where antibiotic resistance is becoming a huge threat to people and animals.

In conclusion, preventive vet care is a multi-faceted approach

that ensures a healthier and longer life for our pets. It encompasses various aspects, from regular vet check-ups and vaccinations to parasite control, dental care, nutrition and exercise.

Taking proactive steps in preventive vet care can avoid unnecessary discomfort for your pet and potentially save you from facing costly treatment down the road.

Our goal at HSMC Veterinary Clinic is to ensure all companion animals in our community have access to high-quality yet affordable veterinary care. 🐾

Open to the public, Humane Society of Manatee County Veterinary Clinic is located at 2415 14th Street West in Bradenton and can be reached by calling 941-747-8808, Option #1. The veterinary clinic is open by appointment Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For details about HSMC's veterinary clinic, visit www.humanemanatee.org.

Humane Society of Manatee County is located at 2515 14th Street West in Bradenton and can be reached by calling 941-747-8808. The Adoption Center is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For more information, visit www.humanemanatee.org online, or send an e-mail to info@humanemanatee.org.