

Health Check Program

At Napanee Veterinary Hospital, we are always looking for better tools to help pet owners take care of their pets' health. This is why we are proud to present our Health Check Program. This program offers health screening that will help us provide the best possible care for your pets.

It is recommended to do the 3 tests in this program once a year. The 3 tests can be performed with 1 small blood draw and 1 fresh stool sample. There are significant savings when the 3 tests are combined. The 3 components of the Health Check Program are:

1- 4Dx Snap Test:

The 4Dx is often referred to as the *Heartworm Test*, but it also screens for 3 different tick transmitted diseases (Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis and Ehrlichiosis).

-Heartworm is transmitted by mosquito bites. The mosquito transmits the microscopic larva, which will mature into a 23-30 cm worm lodged in the heart. The more worms there are, the more severe the impact on the heart. This means that some animals can have heartworm for a long time before starting to show signs of heart disease. While undiagnosed, they contribute to the spreading of the disease.

-Lyme Disease is caused by a bacteria that is transmitted by some ticks. Ticks can easily go unnoticed on medium to long haired dogs, or even on short haired dogs if they attach to a hidden spot of skin. Dogs that go in wooded areas or in tall grass are most susceptible but any dog with outdoor access can get a tick. Dogs should be tested at least once a year. Dogs who are vaccinated for Lyme disease have a lower risk of contracting it, but they should still be tested yearly. The same goes for dogs who are treated with tick repellants. Dogs who test positive will need further diagnostics to determine if they need treatment.

***Ehrlichiosis** and **Anaplasmosis** are not a concern in our area yet, but can be contracted by dogs who travel to the USA.

2- Early Detection Blood Screening:

This test will measure your dog's blood glucose, as well as specific blood enzymes that give us information on the health and function of the liver and kidneys. Animals that are 7 years or older will also have their thyroid tested and blood cells checked. The goal of this test is to detect subtle anomalies that may not be severe enough to make the animal sick yet, so that we can treat them early. It will also give us baseline values that we can compare with future results to allow us to detect even subtle changes over time.

3- Fecal Antigen Testing:

A fresh stool sample will be sent to the lab to detect the presence of intestinal parasites (worms).