

# MICHIGAN HUMANIE SOCIETY

## VETERINARY SERVICES

YOUR PET'S HEALTH AND  
WELLNESS CAN BE ...

**S**pay/neuter

**I**mmunizations

**M**icrochipping

**P**arasite Control

**L**ife Stage

**E**xaminations





*The Michigan Humane Society (MHS) is a charitable 501(c) 3 animal welfare organization and is the largest and oldest animal welfare organization in the state, caring for tens of thousands of animals each year.*

## OUR MISSION

To end companion animal homelessness, to provide the highest quality service and compassion to the animals entrusted to our care, and to be a leader in promoting humane values.

## VETERINARY CENTERS

**Detroit** (313.872.0004)

7401 Chrysler Dr., Detroit, MI 48211

**Rochester Hills** (248.852.7424)

3600 W. Auburn Rd., Rochester Hills, MI 48309

**Westland** (734.721.4195)

900 N. Newburgh Rd., Westland, MI 48185

[www.michiganhumane.org](http://www.michiganhumane.org)



## MICHIGAN HUMANE SOCIETY VETERINARY CENTERS



High quality full-service companion animal veterinary care



Three locations in Detroit, Rochester Hills and Westland



Advanced medical, surgical and diagnostic equipment at all of our locations, as well as experience that comes from seeing thousands of animals each year



Outstanding, highly compassionate veterinary medical teams



Focus on disease prevention and affordable, convenient pet care



At MHS, veterinary revenues support our work to help animals in need so they can find new, loving homes



**Take this quiz** to see where you stand with your pet's health care. If you answer "no" to any of these questions, talk to our veterinarians about how "SIMPLE" improving your pet's health can be!

1. Is your pet spayed or neutered?
2. Is your pet up-to-date on vaccinations?
3. Does your pet have a microchip, collar and identification tags?
4. Has your pet had a fecal exam? And been properly dewormed this year?
5. Is your pet on flea preventative?
6. Has your pet had a heartworm test in the past year? And been placed on a monthly heartworm preventative?
7. Do you brush your pet's teeth at home and offer dental treats?
8. Has your pet had a dental examination and a dental cleaning, if needed, in the last year?
9. Has your pet had routine wellness bloodwork this year?
10. Has your pet had an annual exam this year?

# Spay/Neuter

Spaying or neutering is one of the most important things you can do for your pet. There are many health, behavioral and other benefits to having your pet sterilized such as:

 **Health benefits.** Spaying females before their first heat greatly reduces their chances of developing mammary, ovarian or uterine cancers and uterine infections. Neutering male pets virtually eliminates the risk of testicular tumors or prostate problems.

 **Preventing unwanted behaviors.** Sterilized male dogs and cats are less likely to fight, mark their territory, or show other aggressive behaviors. Pets are also less likely to slip out of the house or yard to find mates.

 **Positive effects on your pet's personality.** Sterilized animals tend to be better socialized and more affectionate. All of their attention will be focused on you, rather than on the urge to breed.

 **Helping control pet overpopulation.** The companion animal population grows more rapidly than the human population, so there are not enough good homes.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Neutering your pet will not make him less “manly.” Animals have no concept of masculinity and your dog will be happier and healthier.

Your female pet has no need to have “just one litter” or even “just one heat.” There are many risks to pregnancy and birth and even experienced breeders often lose puppies/kittens or the mom. Dogs and cats usually go into their first heat around 5-7 months.



## Spay/Neuter

**Be part of the solution, not part of the problem! There are not enough good homes. Please spay/neuter!**

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The Michigan Humane Society offers low-cost cat and kitten spay/neuter services.

The package includes spay/neuter surgery and pain medication, rabies vaccination and HCP vaccination, which covers feline viral rhinotracheitis, calici virus and panleukopenia (feline distemper).



Spay/neuter procedures require general anesthesia. At MHS, all anesthesia protocols are tailored to your pet's individual needs based on physical exam, medical history, age of your pet and laboratory data.

A physical exam and pre-operative bloodwork are important steps in preparing for surgery.



Please ask our veterinarians about affordable spay/neuter options for dogs.

# Immunizations (dogs)

Routine vaccinations are important in keeping dogs safe from many common canine diseases. The MHS veterinary centers vaccinate thousands of animals each year, to protect them from deadly and transmittable diseases.



## Core vaccines for dogs:

**Rabies:** In Michigan, the rabies vaccination is legally required for all dogs over 4 months of age. Rabies is a fatal disease that is transmitted through the saliva and affects the nervous system. Both pets and humans can be infected by rabies through bite wounds.

**Distemper combination in dogs:** This combination vaccine includes distemper, hepatitis/adenovirus and parvovirus. Distemper is a viral disease that affects the respiratory, nervous and intestinal systems and is usually fatal. Hepatitis/adenovirus can be fatal and affects the liver and other organ systems. Parvovirus is also a viral disease causing vomiting and diarrhea and is often fatal. For puppies under 4 months old, the vaccine is given every 3-4 weeks in a series. For dogs over 4 months, the interval and number of vaccine boosters given will depend on immunity. Please discuss with our veterinarians the schedule of vaccination that best fits your dog.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Michigan Humane Society Protect-A-Pet clinics offer low-cost, age-appropriate vaccinations against distemper, parvovirus, rabies and other deadly diseases.



## Immunizations - Dogs



### **Core vaccines for dogs, continued:**

**Leptospirosis in dogs:** Leptospirosis (also known as “rat fever”) is a bacterial disease that affects several systems including the kidneys and liver and is contagious to people. This disease can be fatal. Leptospirosis is prevalent in Southeastern Michigan with multiple reported cases each year, and therefore, is considered a core vaccine in this area. This vaccine will need to be given yearly and boosted if your dog is not current.



### **Non-core vaccines for dogs:**

**Bordetella/Parainfluenza:** This vaccine is highly recommended within the MHS veterinary practice. Bordetella and Parainfluenza either contribute to or cause canine kennel cough and other respiratory diseases. This is recommended for dogs that spend time with other dogs, especially in environments like boarding, dog daycare, training class or dog parks.

**Lyme:** Lyme disease is a bacterial disease spread by ticks that can cause arthritis and other problems such as kidney disease. Our veterinarians can help you decide if the Lyme vaccine is needed for your dog. This vaccine will need to be given yearly and boosted if your dog is not current.

# Immunizations (cats)

Routine vaccinations are important in keeping cats safe from many common feline diseases. The MHS veterinary centers vaccinate thousands of animals each year, to protect them from deadly and transmittable diseases.



## Core vaccines for cats:

**Rabies:** Rabies is highly recommended for all cats and legally required in most cities. Rabies is a fatal disease that is transmitted through the saliva and affects the nervous system. Both pets and humans can be infected by rabies through bite wounds.

**Distemper (HCP or FVRCP) combinations:** This is a vaccine that includes feline viral rhinotracheitis, calici virus and panleukopenia. Rhinotracheitis is a herpes virus that typically causes respiratory signs such as sneezing and runny eyes and can be severe. Panleukopenia is transmitted through saliva, feces or urine and can cause a large range of signs from anorexia and vomiting to fever, weight loss and death. Calici virus can cause severe respiratory disease in cats. For kittens under 4 months old, the vaccine is given every 3-4 weeks in a series. For cats over 4 months, the interval and number of vaccine boosters given will depend on immunity. Please discuss with our veterinarians the schedule of vaccination that best fits your cat.

## DID YOU KNOW?

There is a rise in the number of cats being diagnosed with rabies because of a decrease in the number that are being vaccinated for rabies. If a non-vaccinated cat (or dog) scratches/bites someone and draws blood, it must be quarantined for rabies observation.



## Immunizations - Cats



### **Core vaccines for cats, continued:**

**Feline leukemia (kittens):** This is a virus that causes immunosuppression in cats and is often fatal. The disease is spread through saliva, urine and cat-to-cat interaction such as biting and grooming. This vaccine is considered a core vaccine in kittens and is recommended by your veterinarian based on exposure potential in adult cats. We require testing your pet for leukemia prior to administering the vaccine.



### **Non-core vaccines for cats:**

**Feline leukemia (adults):** As described above, feline leukemia may or may not be required for adult cats, depending on exposure. Please ask your veterinarian if this vaccine is appropriate or necessary for your adult cat. This vaccine will need to be given every two years and boosted if your pet isn't current.

# Microchipping

Each year, the Michigan Humane Society shelters and cares for approximately 10,000 stray animals. Tragically, only a small percentage of lost dogs (16%) and cats (3%) are ever reunited with their owners. Why? Because the majority of these animals lack any form of identification. While it is estimated that about one-third of pets will get lost at some point in their lives, **the good news is that losing a pet forever is largely preventable!**

HomeAgain, the microchip company used by MHS, reunites **10,000 pets with their owners** every month across the country.



Dog and cat microchipping is a simple procedure. A veterinarian simply injects a microchip, about the size of a grain of rice, beneath the surface of your pet's skin between the shoulder blades.

A microchip is a **permanent** form of pet ID. The microchip itself has no internal energy source, so it will last the life of your pet. It is read by passing a microchip scanner over the pet's shoulder blades. The scanner emits a low radio frequency that provides the power necessary to transmit the microchip's unique ID code and positively identify the pet.

## DID YOU KNOW?

MHS uses HomeAgain microchips, which are ISO compatible. That means they can be read in many other countries besides the United States. HomeAgain is also the only microchipping product with the Bio-Bond patented anti-migration feature that helps ensure your pet's microchip will stay in place and can be easily located and scanned.



## Microchipping

 **Petie, the Jack Russell pictured here, was found 600 miles away from home.**

Petie went missing in July 2011 from his home in Tennessee. Petie's owner and his family went on a wide search for the missing pooch. But as the months passed, a reunion seemed less and less likely.



**In September 2011, Petie's owner got a call that Petie had been found.** No one knows how Petie made the trip all the way from Tennessee to Michigan, but he was wandering in a backyard in Rochester Hills and brought into the MHS Rochester Hills Center for Animal Care. An MHS volunteer drove Petie the 600 miles home for a happy reunion.

 MHS **strongly** recommends that all dogs and cats be implanted with a microchip in addition to wearing a collar and I.D. tags. Keeping your contact information up-to-date is critical in helping a lost pet get back home. This will help to make sure your pet will be as lucky as Petie if he or she ever goes missing.

# Parasite Control

Pets can often harbor zoonotic parasites meaning they can be transmitted to the human members of your family as well as being harmful to your pet. Making sure your pet is on a year-round parasite control program will help protect your pet and family.



## Intestinal worms and parasites

These include **roundworms, hookworms and whipworms**. Eggs and worms are found in and transferred through fecal material. A yearly stool sample is necessary for helping to diagnose these types of worms. Make sure you ask your vet which treatment is best for the particular type of worm your pet is infected with. Oral monthly prevention can be given as well as regular deworming.

**Coccidia and Giardia** are other intestinal parasites that can cause diarrhea and must be treated. These are common in puppies and kittens.

**Tapeworms** are transmitted by the ingestion of fleas and small rodents. Small segments can be seen in fecal material.



## Heartworm

Pets can be infected with heartworm through a single common mosquito bite, and worms travel through the bloodstream into the heart and lungs. While potentially fatal, it is preventable. Treatment is possible, but difficult and costly. Monthly heartworm preventative is affordable and will keep your pet protected. MHS requires an annual blood test to make sure your pet is not infected prior to starting preventative.

## DID YOU KNOW?

For every five fleas found on your pet, there are 10 ready to hatch, 35 in the larvae form (the stage between the egg and the adult) and 50 eggs, all in places your pet spends the most time.



## Parasite Control



### Fleas

One female flea can produce up to 1,000 eggs in her short lifetime. It takes as little as 13 days and as long as a few months for fleas to complete their life cycle. Getting rid of fleas can be done with the right medication, knowledge and help from our experienced veterinary team. Preventing fleas is MUCH easier than treating them. Year-round, monthly flea prevention is recommended and comes in topical or oral forms. Fleas can carry many diseases and can cause uncomfortable skin problems for your pet with just a few bites.



### Ticks

Ticks are bloodsucking parasites that are found in many areas of Michigan. Ticks are the source of many serious diseases of pets and humans including Lyme disease. Ask our veterinarians to recommend a topical tick prevention that is right for your pet.



### Ear mites

Common especially in kittens and puppies, ear mites are easily transmitted from pet to pet. If one pet in your household has ear mites, all should be treated. They are diagnosed by taking an ear swab of your pet's ear debris. They can be treated with a topical medication. Treatment can take two to three months.

# Life Stage and Dental Care



## Why does life stage matter?

Life stage divisions offer a framework for individualized veterinary care for your dog or cat. The stage of life of a dog or cat can affect what diseases he or she may be most prone to and what vaccinations he or she needs. For example, the nutritional needs of a growing puppy or kitten are different than a fully mature adult.

**Puppy/Kitten:** Neonate until reproductive maturity

**Junior:** Reproductively mature, still growing

**Adult:** Finished growing, structurally and socially mature

**Mature:** From middle age up to approximately the last 25% of expected lifespan (a window of time around half of life expectancy for the breed)

**Senior:** From maturity to life expectancy (approximately the last 25% of expected lifespan)

**Geriatric:** At life expectancy and beyond



## What does dental disease have to do with life stage?

Puppies and kittens aren't born with dental disease - it's up to you to take care of their oral health. Pets need routine dental cleanings throughout their life to help prevent dental disease. Proper dental care starting at a young age can also prevent other health issues such as heart or kidney disease from appearing as the pet ages.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Adult cats have 30 teeth and dogs have 42. They need their teeth cleaned regularly just like you!

Seventy percent of dental disease is under the gum line, so if you see visible signs of disease, it is often much worse.



## Life Stage and Dental Care



### Why is dental care important?

While most people are aware of the need for human dental care, many pet owners do not realize that their pets are subject to the same dental concerns. It is extremely important to care for your pet's teeth for the same reasons it's important to care for our own teeth - ignoring this aspect of your pet's health can have life-threatening consequences.

The most common disease in companion animals is periodontal (gum) disease, affecting at least 70% of dogs and cats over 5 years of age. However, cats and smaller dogs can be affected sooner, as genetically, they are more prone to an increased risk of this disease.

As periodontal disease advances, it results in weakening of the structures that support the teeth, leading to the loosening and eventual loss of teeth.



# E examinations

Routine, annual visits to your veterinarian can maximize your pet's quality of life and life expectancy, minimize your costs of diagnosing and treating medical and behavioral problems, and give you the peace of mind that you are doing all you can for your pet's good health.

Examinations are performed during vaccination appointments, as well as on an annual basis, to assess your pet for potential physical, dental and behavioral problems.

Wellness blood testing also should be performed as part of an annual exam. This will help your veterinarian detect problems early to help your pet live a longer, happier life. Blood test results can also identify any increasing or decreasing trends in disease.

During an annual exam, the veterinarian will ask questions about changes you have observed in your pet's health over the last year.

Seeing the animal year-to-year and knowing what their "healthy" state is like will allow our veterinarians to be able to catch potential problems early, or offer tips on how to prevent any health issues your pet may be prone to.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Your pet "ages" a lot faster than you do - for every one human year, your pet ages the equivalent of approximately seven years.

This makes it even more important to see the vet frequently. Think of all the health problems that could pop up in your life if you didn't have a wellness checkup for seven years!



## Examinations

A thorough routine physical examination checks every major body organ and system:



### Eyes

Eyes will be checked for redness, cloudiness or discharge that could indicate a problem.



### Ears

Your pet's ear canals will be examined for signs of an ear problem or infection including debris, growths, waxy buildup or trauma caused by scratching.



### Mouth

The mouth will be examined for signs of dental disease or broken or missing teeth.



### Respiratory System/Cardiovascular System

Your vet will listen to your pet's heart and lungs and check for any abnormalities.



### Digestive System

The abdomen will be felt for signs of discomfort and to ensure major organs are the right size and shape.



### Musculoskeletal System

Major muscles, bones and weight will be reviewed.



### Skin and Haircoat

Your vet will check all your pet's "lumps and bumps."