

OAK FOREST

Veterinary Hospital

Pet Talk

Spring 2026



Paws for Thought

Taking Care of Your Dog's Feet

Dogs' feet are incredibly designed for maximum function, and much tougher than human feet! The pads act as shock absorbers for bones and joints, and they provide protection from extreme conditions. However, your dog's paws are not indestructible, and we see many foot injuries. Canine feet are comprised of tendons, skin, bone, ligaments, blood supply, connective tissue, and nails. Things can go wrong with any of these essential parts.

Follow these footcare tips:

Nail trims: The nails should be just long enough for the tip to touch the floor but should not click when they walk. Regular trimming prevents painful problems such as ingrown nails. Trimming them too short can cause pain or injury, but we are always here to trim them for you.

Broken or torn toenails: This can be very painful and will require a visit to your veterinarian. Look for limping, bleeding, or favoring one paw.

Cuts and scrapes: A small cut on your dog's pad can usually be treated by cleaning the area with a diluted antiseptic and applying an antibacterial ointment. For large cuts, continued bleeding, or an object embedded in the paw, please bring your pet in to see us.

Protection and prevention: Watch where your dog is walking! Keep them clear of broken glass and barbed plants such as foxtail, cheat grass and riggut brome, which can cause serious injury.

Extreme temperatures: To avoid burns, never allow your dog to walk on hot pavement. Extreme cold can also injure your dog's feet. Although their pads are tougher than the bottoms of our feet, some conditions are too extreme. If you can't tolerate the ground temperature on your bare feet for several seconds, your dog can't tolerate it for several minutes!

Licking and chewing: Licking and chewing at their feet may indicate allergies or a yeast infection between the pads. Be sure to let us know about this or any foot problem!



Feline Health

5 Common Diseases Your Cat Can Avoid

Some conditions that can steal your cat's health are beyond your control, but it's much more likely your sick kitty will suffer from an illness that is preventable. Regular checkups, keeping vaccines up to date, and taking measures to prevent these five diseases can help your cat live a long, healthy life!

Feline Diabetes

Cats can get diabetes just like people; and it's often caused by a poor diet. Cats require a diet high in proteins and meat but most cat foods on the market today are high in carbohydrates, which can lead to feline diabetes. To ensure your cat is fed a proper diet, ask your veterinarian for recommendations.



Obesity

In addition to diabetes, liver disease, arthritis and heart conditions are just a few other health problems obesity can cause. Ask your vet if your cat is at a healthy weight. If not, we can recommend a diet and exercise regime that can get them there!

Oral Diseases

Mouth or oral diseases can also be caused by a poor diet but are more often the result of poor dental care. Be sure to schedule regular cleanings, supplemented with oral care at home.

FIV and FeLV

Feline immunodeficiency virus and feline leukemia virus are deadly and highly contagious diseases. They can be prevented by keeping your cat isolated from unknown cats and not allowing them to roam.

Parasitic Diseases

Prevention methods are available for the parasites your cat may be exposed to, such as fleas and various types of worms. We can recommend parasite prevention based on your cat's lifestyle.

Parasite Patrol

How Fleas Can Make Your Pet Sick

Warm spring weather means more outdoor fun for your pet, but it is also an ideal season for parasites such as fleas. Fleas can be more than just a nuisance for your pet; they carry diseases that can pose serious health risks.

Anemia

Small pets including kittens and puppies are at risk of anemia from blood loss from a severe infestation. Untreated, it causes extreme discomfort and eventually leads to death.

Fleabite Dermatitis

Fleabite dermatitis is an allergic reaction to flea saliva that can cause excessive scratching, fur loss and vomiting.

Tapeworms

Fleas carry tapeworms, which can also infect humans. Tapeworms live in the intestines and prevent the host animal from getting sufficient nutrition. You might notice eggs that look like small grains of rice in your pet's stool. Tapeworms can be treated with medication from your veterinarian.



The first line of defense against flea infestation is to keep your pet on a flea and tick preventative medication. However, only your veterinarian should be trusted to prescribe a safe method at the proper dosage.

Vacuuming daily and keeping bedding clean helps control fleas that find their way indoors. A pest control professional should be called for serious infestations. Be sure to talk to us soon about proper flea prevention for your pet!

Feline Dental Disease

What Your Cat's Bad Breath Could Be Hiding

If your cat has bad breath, dental disease is likely the culprit—studies show that as many as 90% of cats four years and older are affected. Dental disease can not only cause severe pain, it can lead to more serious health problems.

Plaque deposits on your cat's teeth can cause an immune response to the bacteria in plaque, resulting in inflammation known as gingivitis. You may notice redness or swelling around the gums as well as a reluctance to eat, turning the head while chewing, pawing at the mouth, drooling, or halitosis. Left untreated, gingivitis can progress to periodontitis, a condition that weakens the gums and underlying bones and is usually irreversible. Tooth resorption is another common dental condition and is the most common cause of tooth loss. This is a condition in which a tooth begins to deteriorate from the inside.

Unfortunately, the bacteria and infection that causes most forms of dental disease can spread to other organs. In severe cases, infection can damage the kidneys, heart and liver. To diagnose dental disease, we examine your cat's mouth and take x-rays under anesthesia. During a dental cleaning, we remove the plaque and tartar that can cause gingivitis. We may also treat other dental issues, such as tooth resorption, while your kitty is anesthetized. For some infections, we may prescribe antibiotics.

Fortunately, we can prevent these common types of feline dental disease. Bring your cat to see us so we can create a dental care plan that will help your kitty avoid the pain and potential complications of dental disease.



info@OakForestVet.com | www.OakForestVet.com
Call (713) 682-6351 today to make an appointment!

Woof! A Message from Goose

(Official Oak Forest Veterinary Hospital Office Dog... self-appointed)



Hi humans! Goose here. You may know me as the friendly face, professional treat-tester, and occasional floor inspector at Oak Forest Veterinary Hospital. We got something really cool and new here at my mom's work, called ChckVet, and she (Dr. Moore) asked me to bark about it.

Think of ChckVet like a really good leash; it keeps everyone connected and prevents things from running off unexpectedly. The doctors and staff here believe great veterinary care doesn't stop when you walk out the door (or when I try to sneak out behind you). Clear communication, timely updates, and easy access to your pet's info are all part of keeping tails wagging and whiskers twitching.

ChckVet is an online portal and we have an app for it (that's for a phone, not an appetizer). It lets you:

- 🐾 Get appointment reminders and confirmations (so you don't "accidentally" forget my nail trim).
- 🐾 Message the veterinary team directly—no phone tag, no chasing your tail.
- 🐾 Receive updates about visits, treatment plans, and follow-ups (very important stuff!).
- 🐾 Stay in the loop with hospital updates and reminders.

You'll get an email invitation to download ChckVet and set up your account. It only takes a few minutes—about the same amount of time it takes me to decide where to nap.

And don't worry, if you prefer the classic method of calling, the phones at Oak Forest Veterinary Hospital are still answered by real humans. Friendly ones. The kind who tell me I'm a "good boy."

If you have questions about ChckVet or need help getting started, just ask. The team is always happy to help and I'll be nearby, supervising.

Now if you'll excuse me, I hear a treat bag rustling.

Goose 🐾
Oak Forest Veterinary Hospital's #1 Fan



Refer a Friend and Save!

Refer a new client and save \$10 on your next doctor's visit.

Be sure to mention the refer-a-friend savings when you make your appointment.



When you're here, you're family.

2120 W. 34th Street
Houston, TX 77018

www.OakForestVet.com

Senior Wellness Savings

\$20 Savings

for Canine and Feline

Senior Wellness Profile - includes bloodwork, urinalysis and thyroid check

Not valid with any other offer. Expires 5/31/2026.

Microchip Savings

\$10 Savings

on Microchipping

(includes registration in the national database)

Increase the likelihood that your pet will be returned to you!

Not valid with any other offer. Expires 5/31/2026.

Drop-off Savings

Save 5%

on morning drop-offs for "routine" veterinary services.

Expires 5/31/2026.

Records Portal



 Call (713) 682-6351
to make an appointment!

It's spring checkup time!



When you're here, you're family.



Call (713) 682-6351
to schedule an
appointment today