

PERRY PET CLINIC

Dog Owner's Quick Reference

Your partner in a lifetime of healthy tails · Waterford, PA

Regular care prevents most problems — and when something seems off, calling early is always the right move.

LIFETIME CARE SCHEDULE

LIFE STAGE	VISIT RHYTHM	WHAT HAPPENS
Puppy (6–16 wks)	Every 3–4 weeks	Vaccine series (distemper/parvo group + rabies), deworming, start heartworm and flea/tick prevention, spay/neuter planning
Adult (1–7 yrs)	Once a year	Wellness exam, vaccine boosters, annual heartworm & tick-borne disease test, dental check, year-round parasite prevention
Senior (7+ yrs; large breeds 6+)	Twice a year	Exam plus baseline bloodwork, joint & dental checks, and monitoring of weight and any new lumps

PA law requires rabies vaccination for dogs 3 months and older.

CALL PERRY PET RIGHT AWAY IF...

- Bloated, hard belly with unproductive retching — bloat is life-threatening in deep-chested dogs
- Straining to urinate, or unable to pass any urine
- Trouble breathing, or pale, white, or blue gums
- Collapse, sudden weakness, or a seizure
- Ate something toxic — antifreeze, rodent bait, chocolate, xylitol (sugar-free gum)
- Vomiting or diarrhea that won't stop, especially with blood
- Won't eat for more than a day
- Won't put weight on a leg, or a sudden severe limp
- Squinting or an injured, cloudy, or bulging eye
- Overheating in summer, or shivering and weak in hard cold

Wildlife run-ins — porcupine quills, skunk spray in the eyes, or a bite wound — should be seen the same day.

KNOW YOUR BREED

- Labs, Goldens, Shepherds & large breeds: hip/elbow dysplasia and arthritis (ask about laser therapy), ear infections, higher cancer risk — keep them lean.
- Deep-chested breeds (Shepherds, Boxers, Danes, Setters): prone to bloat — feed smaller meals, avoid hard play right after eating.
- Dachshunds & long-backed dogs: protect the spine; sudden back pain or wobbly rear legs is urgent.
- Small breeds (Yorkies, Chihuahuas, Poodles): dental disease and slipping kneecaps — yearly dental checks matter.
- Flat-faced breeds (Bulldogs, Frenchies, Pugs, Boxers): overheat easily — keep them cool and calm in summer.
- Hunting & farm dogs (hounds, GSPs, setters, Labs): high tick and injury exposure — check skin, ears, and paws after every outing.

NORTHWEST PA WATCH-OUTS

- Ticks & Lyme (year-round): PA is a national Lyme hotspot. Ticks bite any time it's above ~40°F — keep prevention going all year and check after tall grass or woods.
- Heartworm & fleas: mosquitoes and fleas linger here — year-round prevention is the safest bet.
- Ponds & standing water: leptospirosis (wildlife urine in puddles/streams) and summer blue-green algae on ponds and Lake Erie can be deadly — no drinking or swimming in scummy green water.
- Winter: rinse road salt off paws, store and clean up antifreeze (a few licks can kill), and watch for frostbite on ears, tail, and toes.

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Wellness & Preventative Care · Vaccines · Diagnostics · Dentistry · Digital X-Ray · Surgery · Laser Therapy
(814) 796-4326 · 9880 Perry Highway, Waterford, PA 16441

General guidance, not a diagnosis. When in doubt, call us — we'd always rather hear from you early.