

MEDICAL CARE CHECKLIST (12/2/2011)

Please give this list to the vet and make sure each item is checked off

_____ **FLEAS:** Check immediately; if you think there is any chance at all, give a CAPSTAR and isolate the dog.

_____ **BATH/GROOMING:** If dog is dirty, this can be a good time to give a bath since they are not yet comfortable and confident. (Do not do this if the dog is snarly.) Get dog groomed ASAP, esp. before stitches.

_____ **EMAIL:** Post to the email list ASAP. Ask questions about anything. We may be able to help you until you get to the vet or help you figure out what to ask the vet.

_____ **MEDICAL RECORDS:** Take all records to the vet. If none supplied, try to get name and number of the vet; your vet's staff can then call and get records faxed. If no records exist (e.g., stray), assume nothing was done and get all shots, etc. FOR ANY DOG WITH SKIN ISSUES, PRINTOUT FH2C and take it to the vet with you.

_____ **VET APPT:** Make this appointment ASAP, preferably within 24 hours. You may choose to isolate the dog from yours until this is done. This is esp. true if the dog came from a shelter or looks mangy. Even if the dog is up to date, make a well dog visit.

_____ **SHOTS:** Bring the dog completely up to date on shots

- **RABIES** (1 year for puppies; 3 years for adults if they have had shots in the past)

- **DHLP** (Annual) If this is the first known DHLP, a booster is needed in 3 weeks (Initials may vary from vet to vet depending on what they include) NOTE: If there is a solid history of the dog having had annual shots, you can go to a 3-7 year cycle on the distemper, but please get the leptos annually.

- **BORDETELLA** (shot or nasal) If shot, a booster is required; if nasal, it lasts only 6 months

NOTE: PLEASE request a **certificate** showing the dog's name and certifying that the shots have been given for proof later in case of a need to board the dog and for the adopters to get a dog license.

_____ **FECAL CHECK:** Do this with every dog! Gather the pooh as close to appointment time as possible. Just a small sample is needed. If you don't get it, the vet can usually collect from the dog while at the office. **BE SURE TO PICK UP POOH UNTIL THIS IS DONE AND CLEAR.**

_____ **HEARTWORM TEST/PREVENTION:** ALWAYS do this check. We recommend year-around heartworm treatment (I give Sentinel because it also takes care of worms and parasites...important if you are fostering). NOTE: In the winter, a puppy who has not been through a heartworm season can have a pill immediately but an adult must always be checked before getting the heartworm pill.

NOTE: Buy 2 pills, one to give and one for the adopter. If the dog has worms, the vet may have you repeat the heartworm pill in 2 weeks so you may need an extra. If you anticipate the dog will be a longer-term dog or you may be fostering frequently, you can buy a dozen because they are less expensive that way.

_____ **MICROCHIP:** Have the vet check for an existing microchip first!!! We don't want two on board. If none, have a chip inserted. If possible, do not pay vet for Registration; get paperwork and we will register it ourselves. If necessary, ask them to hold paperwork until we place the dog, then provide them with adopter info so they can register it. **SEE SECTION 4, ITEM 3 OF THE FOSTER GUIDE FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION**

_____ **NEUTER/SPAY*:** ALWAYS have this done if it hasn't been done already. If it is a puppy, ask for a juvenile spay/neuter. If an adult female whose status is unknown, ask the vet to see if there is a scar. If unable to tell, do not do again...we may have to adopt on a spay contract rather than operate for no reason. IF your vet offers laser surgery, please choose to pay extra for this. It is easier on the dog and heals more quickly.

ASK FOR A SPAY/NEUTER CERTIFICATE.

_____ **DENTAL*:** Most adults need a dental. If your vet feels the dog needs one, please do it.

_____ **OTHER PROBLEMS*:** Tell your vet of any issues you may have noticed (lumps, bumps, limps, sneezes, sniffles, hair loss, runny eyes, shaking leg while running, smells, possible urinary tract problems, etc.) Loose knee caps are common; while we don't normally fix this, it is good to know if it exists so we can tell adopters. Heart murmurs are also fairly common and usually not important but it is better we tell the adopter than they tell us later. Ask for a nail trim if you aren't going to the groomer soon. (If surgery is scheduled, ask them to do it while the dog is under.)

_____ **BLOOD PANELS:** Always get a complete blood panel so we can catch things that might show up and so that the adopter can give it to their vet as a baseline. This is the panel they do before surgery. It is more than a CBC and includes things like kidney values. It generally costs less than \$100 and is often done in house. There is another that is more expensive and takes a week to come back. We don't normally do this one unless there is a reason.

***For Senior Dogs undergoing surgery, always do the extra blood testing and surgical support the vet recommends for seniors.**

_____ **THYROID PANEL:** Discuss doing this with the vet if the dog appears to be a Cushings dog, has hair loss, pot belly, or aggression issues. When we do this, we prefer always to do the one that goes to MSU and takes a week or so. No in-house panels.

_____ Check website www.westieclubmi.com for any Westie medical studies this dog can enter.

FOR ANY EXTRA SURGERY, please get details and cost estimates, recovery time, etc. and discuss with Beth before committing.