

How to be an active participant in your pet's healthcare

1. **Regular Veterinary Checkups:** Make sure to schedule and attend regular checkups with your veterinarian to monitor your pet's health and catch any potential issues early. Detection of an abnormality sooner, especially if referral to a veterinary specialist becomes indicated, is always better.
2. **Proper Nutrition:** Ensure your pet is receiving a balanced and nutritious diet that meets their specific needs. Consult with your veterinarian for recommendations on the best type of food for your pet. It is important to avoid harmful recommendations from others or to limit certain ingredients from your pet's diet without guidance.
3. **Regular Exercise:** Provide your pet with regular exercise to maintain their physical health and mental well-being. The type and amount of exercise will vary depending on your pet's breed, age, and health. Even cats, and many other critters we care for as pets, can enjoy an exercise routine!
4. **Grooming and Hygiene:** Keep your pet well-groomed and maintain good hygiene practices, such as regular baths, nail trims, and dental care.
5. **Watch for Signs of Illness:** Be observant of any changes in your pet's behavior, appetite, or physical appearance. Contact your veterinarian if you notice any concerning symptoms. Sometimes these signs can be subtle or challenging to detect - always seek help!
6. **Stay Informed:** Educate yourself on common health issues, preventative care, and emergency protocols for your pet's species. This knowledge will help you make informed decisions about your pet's well-being.
7. **Establish a Relationship with a Veterinarian:** Develop a good relationship with a trusted veterinarian to effectively communicate any concerns or questions about your pet's health.

By being an active participant in your pet's healthcare, you can help ensure a happy and healthy life for your furry companion.