

4 Paws Intake Process

The **4 Paws Intake Process** is the Austin Pets Alive! medical checklist that ensures every animal is properly vaccinated, tested, and cared for upon entering our shelter system. Every dog and cat will be seen by a medical team member, and properly evaluated based on four different areas of care: **vaccinations/preventatives, diagnostic testing, sterilization/identification, and a physical exam.** Intake examination consistency will help minimize any errors or missed diagnosis.

Before beginning:

- ❖ Check intake CVT for all vaccines and medications that animal needs.
- ❖ Check what this animal has previously received prior to arriving at APA.
- ❖ If the case is a medical intake, have all records available for the veterinarian who will be doing the exam.
- ❖ If you approach a kennel and a sign indicates that puppy is on parvo watch, the puppy must be carried to the room to minimize shelter contamination/exposure. This goes for all unvaccinated animals, and vaccinated dogs under 4 months of age.
- ❖ Weigh the animal, and verify age.
- ❖ Be sure to have materials to adequately notate all findings upon physical exam so they can be correctly entered into the digital records. Enter them as you go, if possible.



Paw One: Vaccines

- Vaccines (DAPP, FVRCP, Bordetella) are often given at source shelter, check records. Records must include a date and proof from a vet clinic database OR vaccine sticker
- DAPP, FVRCP – starting at 4 wks of age, should be administered every 2 weeks until 20 weeks of age or adoption.
- Adults 20 wks or older – DAPP, FVRCP - 2 vaccines total
- If a dog received a DAPP after 5 months of age (adult canines are erupting) and within the past year, the next DAPP will count as an annual. (It no longer needs to be within 30 days post first DAPP to be considered an annual)
 - Puppies and kittens living on the premises/nursery start vaccines at 4 wks of age due to exposure
- BORDETELLA – start at 6 weeks of age, booster annually.
- RABIES – to be administered at 12 weeks of age. No sooner. This is a legal requirement. **Needs vet onsite and vet approval to be done.** If vaccinated previously and a rabies certificate was not provided, a rabies vaccine must be given.

**** Modified Live Vaccine vs Recombinant Vaccine** - 1st DAPP or FVRCP should always be a modified live vaccine. Recombinant vaccines should be used for boosters only.**





Paw Two: Preventatives

- ❖ **Preventatives**
 - Strongid (dewormer) – Give starting at 2 weeks of age and then every 2 weeks until 3 months of age.
 - Flea Preventative – start at 6 weeks, as early as 2 weeks if fleas seen

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- Ivermectin 1% (as heartworm prevention) - dosed at 0.01cc/10 pounds– if donations available can give Iverheart/Heartgard instead (at standard dosing)

Vaccine/Preventative Checklist



	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> FVRCP <input type="checkbox"/> RABIES <input type="checkbox"/> FLEA PREVENTION <input type="checkbox"/> STRONGID 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> DAPP <input type="checkbox"/> BORDETELLA <input type="checkbox"/> RABIES <input type="checkbox"/> FLEA PREVENTION <input type="checkbox"/> HEARTWORM PREVENTION <input type="checkbox"/> STRONGID



Paw Three: Diagnostic Testing

Every cat has blood drawn to test if they have Feline Leukemia Virus Infection (FeLV), which can be contagious to other cats, as well as a black light test to check for ringworm, which is a highly treatable fungal infection found on the fur and skin. Every dog will get blood drawn for a heartworm test. If positive, APA will treat when the dog has found an adopter, or sooner if certain criteria is met.

- ❖ Heartworm Testing: if the records of a previous test was provided:
 - If from a vet's office or Austin Animal Center
 - Negative tests: no re-test needed
 - Positive test: re-test to confirm.
 - If from any other location: Re-test.
- ❖ FeLV testing – See FeLV testing protocols for any clarification.
 - For all cats and kittens that come in litters - individual samples must be drawn, but up to 3 samples can be pooled for each test. This applies to cats/kittens of all ages, with the exception of mom cats (queens) who should always be tested separately from her kittens. All single cat intakes would be tested individually.
 - If FeLV positive on whole blood snap test, consider positive.
 - If FeLV negative on whole blood snap test, consider negative.
 - If FeLV exposed, retest in 30 days.

	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> FeIV Test <input type="checkbox"/> BLACKLIGHT TEST 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> HEARTWORM TEST



Paw Four: Physical Examination

A physical examination of all animals is extremely important. To make sure that all elements of the physical exam are completed, and that nothing gets missed, make sure to 'run all the B.A.S.E.S.!'

- B** - body condition score
- A** - abnormalities (masses, etc.)
- S** - skin and coat
- E** - eyes, ears, mouth, and nose
- S** - Sterilization

Please see the coinciding charts for examples of normal and abnormal findings.

B - Body Condition Score (see attached body condition score chart)

- ❖ Assign a body condition score to all animals so that there is a base level condition upon intake.

A - Abnormalities

- ❖ Do a visual and manual check of the animal's whole body. Note any masses, bumps, obvious abnormalities (missing appendages, wounds, etc.) Any masses should be checked by a veterinarian.

S - Skin/Coat

- ❖ A woods lamp test should be performed on all cats to check for ringworm.
- ❖ Any thinning/missing hair should be noted and appropriately tested (skin scrape, etc.) Any skin issues that do not fall within treatment protocol should be examined by a veterinarian.
- ❖ Note any matting that may need to be attended to.
- ❖ Check in between toes for any irritation/allergies.
- ❖ If live fleas are seen, administer a dose of Praziquantel (for tapeworms that can come from ingesting fleas)

E - Eyes, ears, nose, and mouth

- ❖ Dirty, smelly ears should be treated for yeast and/or bacteria
 - Ear shaking, or consistent scratching are symptoms of ear infection. See attached images for images of ear health.
- ❖ Any nasal/ocular discharge should be noted, as well as any abnormalities with the eyes (cherry eye, cataracts, conjunctivitis, eyelid agenesis, corneal ulcers etc.).
 - Discharge may be a sign of upper respiratory infection, and may need antibiotics prescribed. Confer with veterinarian if you have any concerns.
- ❖ Mouths should be checked for dental health, stomatitis, as well as ulcers on cat's tongues (a symptom of calici).
 - See attached images for stages of dental disease. If teeth/gums look to be infected, broken, or have a foul smell, they may need to be put on the list to have a dental performed - put in a vet check.

S - Sterilization/Identification

It is necessary to check all intake for spay/neuter scars so that they do not unnecessarily go under anesthesia, or, get adopted out without first being sterilized. If you are in doubt, please check with a veterinarian.

- ❖ **Female cats:** If a spay scar and/or tattoo is not visible, you can shave the stomach region below the umbilicus to get a better look. The spay scar should be a few inches below the umbilicus, toward the tail. If you are still unsure, you can swab some alcohol on the area, which can help make scars more visible.



- ❖ **Female dogs:** Generally the fur will be thin enough to identify the umbilicus, if not, you can shave the area. A spay scar should be approximately 6 inches below the umbilicus toward the tail, depending on the size of the dog. Look for a tattoo on the abdomen, near the scar. It is easiest to check with two people; if the dog is small, have one person hold the dog up while another inspects. If the dog is large, have one person hold up the front paws so the dog is 'standing', and have the other person inspect.
- ❖ **Male cats/dogs:** check for two distinct testicles. If the scrotal region seems recently shaved, then it is has likely been recently neutered. Post neuter swelling can fill the scrotal sack and make it look like testicles. Look carefully for a healed incision. A testicle is a firm, but movable structure, a swollen testicle will compress with gentle pressure and is usually stationary.
- ❖ **Cryptorchids:** If a male dog is missing one or more testicles without any scar or tattoo present, then the testicles may be in their body cavity, rather than descended into the scrotum. This will need to be noted so the veterinarian is prepared to extract the testicle during their neuter surgery.

Identification

- ❖ Microchipping

All intakes should be scanned thoroughly for a microchip. If none is found, then the animal must be chipped upon intake. Carefully note their microchip number, and make sure that it is put into their digital record correctly.

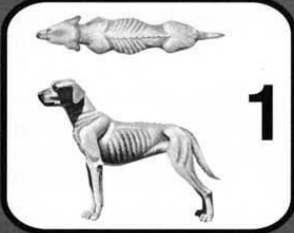
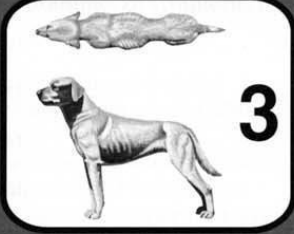
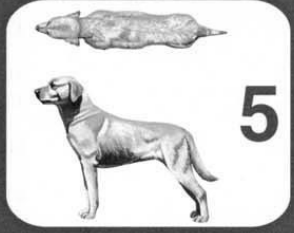
- ❖ Physical Attributes

Write down any identifying features of the animal to help determine between animals, specifically in litters.

All information to be entered in Shelterluv as soon as possible.

Nestlé PURINA

BODY CONDITION SYSTEM

TOO THIN	1	Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences evident from a distance. No discernible body fat. Obvious loss of muscle mass.	
	2	Ribs, lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones easily visible. No palpable fat. Some evidence of other bony prominence. Minimal loss of muscle mass.	
	3	Ribs easily palpated and may be visible with no palpable fat. Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible. Pelvic bones becoming prominent. Obvious waist and abdominal tuck.	
IDEAL	4	Ribs easily palpable, with minimal fat covering. Waist easily noted, viewed from above. Abdominal tuck evident.	
	5	Ribs palpable without excess fat covering. Waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above. Abdomen tucked up when viewed from side.	
TOO HEAVY	6	Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering. Waist is discernible viewed from above but is not prominent. Abdominal tuck apparent.	
	7	Ribs palpable with difficulty; heavy fat cover. Noticeable fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent or barely visible. Abdominal tuck may be present.	
	8	Ribs not palpable under very heavy fat cover, or palpable only with significant pressure. Heavy fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent. No abdominal tuck. Obvious abdominal distention may be present.	
	9	Massive fat deposits over thorax, spine and base of tail. Waist and abdominal tuck absent. Fat deposits on neck and limbs. Obvious abdominal distention.	
	9		

The **BODY CONDITION SYSTEM** was developed at the Nestlé Purina Pet Care Center and has been validated as documented in the following publications:

Mawby D, Bortges JW, Moyers T, et. al. *Comparison of body fat estimates by dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry and deuterium oxide dilution in client owned dogs.* *Compendium* 2001; 23 (9A): 70

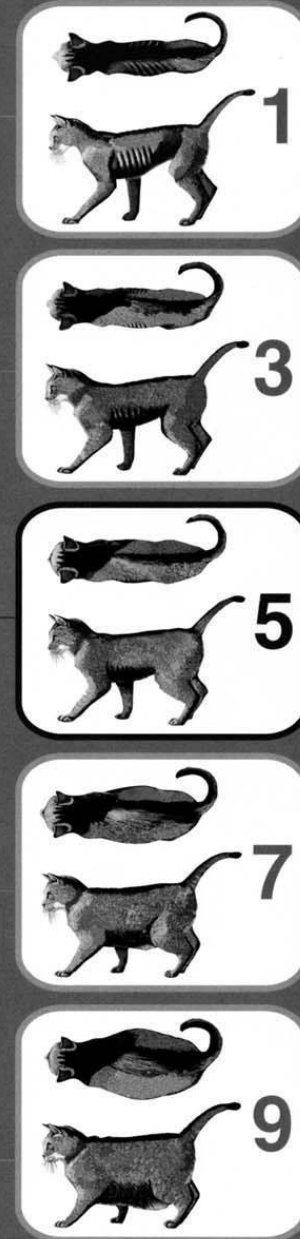
Lafamme DP. *Development and Validation of a Body Condition Score System for Dogs.* *Canine Practice* July/August 1997; 22:10-15

Kealy, et. al. *Effects of Diet Restriction on Life Span and Age-Related Changes in Dogs.* *JAVMA* 2002; 220:1315-1320

Call 1-800-222-VETS (8387), weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CT

BODY CONDITION SYSTEM

- | | | |
|--------------|----------|--|
| TOO THIN | 1 | Ribs visible on shorthaired cats; no palpable fat; severe abdominal tuck; lumbar vertebrae and wings of ilia easily palpated. |
| | 2 | Ribs easily visible on shorthaired cats; lumbar vertebrae obvious with minimal muscle mass; pronounced abdominal tuck; no palpable fat. |
| | 3 | Ribs easily palpable with minimal fat covering; lumbar vertebrae obvious; obvious waist behind ribs; minimal abdominal fat. |
| | 4 | Ribs palpable with minimal fat covering; noticeable waist behind ribs; slight abdominal tuck; abdominal fat pad absent. |
| IDEAL | 5 | Well-proportioned; observe waist behind ribs; ribs palpable with slight fat covering; abdominal fat pad minimal. |
| TOO HEAVY | 6 | Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering; waist and abdominal fat pad distinguishable but not obvious; abdominal tuck absent. |
| | 7 | Ribs not easily palpated with moderate fat covering; waist poorly discernible; obvious rounding of abdomen; moderate abdominal fat pad. |
| | 8 | Ribs not palpable with excess fat covering; waist absent; obvious rounding of abdomen with prominent abdominal fat pad; fat deposits present over lumbar area. |
| | 9 | Ribs not palpable under heavy fat cover; heavy fat deposits over lumbar area, face and limbs; distention of abdomen with no waist; extensive abdominal fat deposits. |



Call 1-800-222-VETS (8387), weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CT

Dental Disease



Grade I



Grade II



Grade III



Grade IV

Unhealthy Coat



Healthy Coat



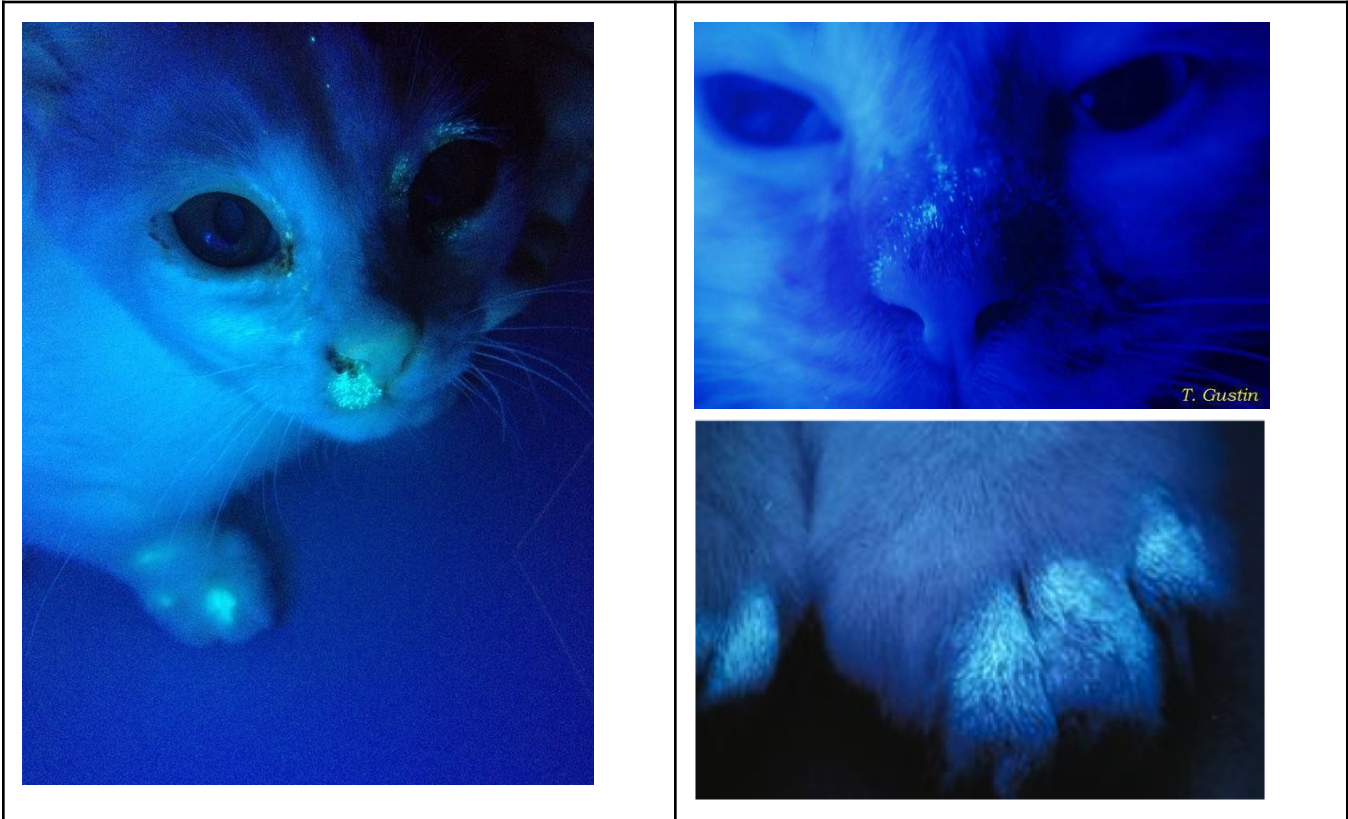
Too Thin



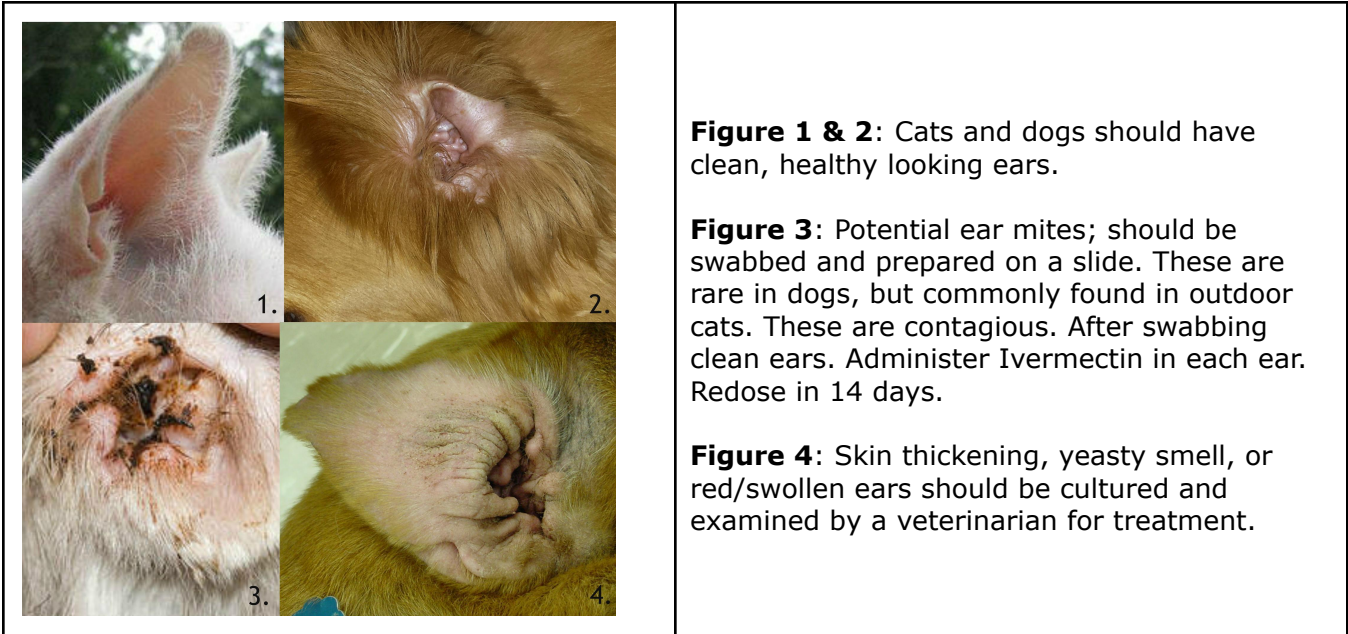
Obese



Ringworm Positive Under Blacklight



Ears



Mouth Lesions

It's important to check the mouths of all animals, specifically cats. If they have any abnormalities on their lips, gums, back mouth, or tongue, they need to be examined by a veterinarian.

Calici Ulcers



Rodent Ulcers



Stomatitis (red, ulcerated gums)

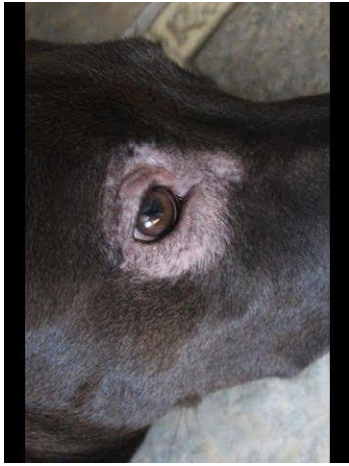


Caudal Mouth stomatitis



Skin Issues

Demodectic Mange and Sarcoptic Mange



Skin Allergies, and Other Infections



Medical Intake Cheat Sheet

In addition to the following animals will receive a quick exam to check for:
hair loss, dental issues, ear check, body condition score, illness/injury.
Follow appropriate protocol if abnormal findings and observed.

Vaccines should always be administered if due or if questionable. If source shelter has provided proof than vaccines may not be required.

- **Dogs:**

- DAPP
 - if onsite start as soon as birth
 - if housed onsite for any amount of time, vaccinate
 - start at 6 weeks if in foster
- Bordetella start at 6 weeks
- Rabies if 12 weeks or older (ask vet)
- Strongid, start at 2 weeks
- Flea prevention, start at 6 weeks or sooner if fleas noted
- Heartworm prevention, start at 6 weeks. Ivermectin 1% 0.01ml/10lbs PO
- Heartworm test at 6m of age or older
- Microchip scan and placement if more than 1lb. If under 1lb microchip not needed
- Puppies 5 weeks or younger should receive Pen G 0.1ml/lb SQ

- **Cats:**

- FVRCP
 - start at 6 weeks if in foster
 - 4 weeks and 1lb if in nursery
- Strongid, start at 2 weeks
- Flea prevention, start at 6 weeks, sooner if fleas noted
- Blacklight
- Oral ulcer check (for calici)
- Felv test. See Felv testing document for positives.
- Microchip scan and placement if more than 1lb. If under 1lb microchip not needed

**All Felv positive cats should have PCV/TP checked, report abnormal findings to vet.

Start the following on intake:

- Panacur - 0.2mL/pound SID x 3 days
- Marquis - 0.3mL/pound once
- Prazi - 6.8mg/kg PO once

- **Bottle baby kittens:** See Bottle Baby Intake Protocol

Nursing or Pregnant Moms: Mothers and kittens should be tested individually. Do not rely on the diagnostic test result of a Mother Cat to determine the FeLV status of her kittens.

- **Physical Exam**

- Body Condition Score
- Gum color, skin tent
- Mouth: ulcers, stomatitis, broken teeth
- Eyes: discharge, conjunctivitis, squinting, other abnormalities
- Skin, Ears, Paws : parasites, lesions (red, pustules,), if itchy
- Limping?
- Spay/Neuter status

