**Adult Birman Cat**

*Birman cats are intelligent, curious and playful. You should also know they can be predisposed to the following ailments. Examinations twice a year and routine diagnostics to catch problems early, when they are easiest to treat, are recommended for the life of your cat.*

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**Periodontal Disease**

**Description**
Birman cats are prone to dental disease and gingivitis (inflammation of the gums).

**Early Detection**
Recommended: Regular comprehensive examination including dental examination and routine dental cleaning.

**Why Needed**
Dental disease can cause:
- Severe pain and discomfort, often leading to anorexia and weight loss
- Loss of teeth and bone
- Spread of infection to other body areas
- Potential for heart and kidney disease

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**Ophthalmic Diseases**

**Description**
Multiple types of ophthalmic (eye) diseases have been identified in the Birman cat. These diseases include corneal dermoid (congenital cyst on the cornea), corneal sequestration ("corneal black spot") and cataracts (clouding of the lens of the eye).

**Early Detection**
Recommended: Regular ophthalmic (eye) examination (including fundic examinations of the interior of the eye) and regular neurologic examination.

**Why Needed**
These ophthalmic diseases can contribute to:
- Chronic corneal irritation
- Corneal pain

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**Spongiform Degeneration/Distal Polyneuropathy**

**Description**
Spongiform degeneration is a neurologic disease that causes a slow progressive degeneration of the brain and spinal cord. In the Birman cat, this can become obvious as early as 7 weeks of age. Distal polyneuropathy is an unrelated neurologic disease that can cause degeneration of nerves outside the spinal cord causing weakness and falling.

**Early Detection**
Recommended: Regular ophthalmic (eye) examination (including fundic examinations of the interior of the eye) and regular neurologic examination.

**Why Needed**
Neurologic diseases can cause:
- Progressive vision loss and blindness
- Neurologic dysfunction (ataxia [a form of cerebral palsy], seizures, unsteady gait, weakness and dullness)

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**Hemophilia B**

**Description**
This is a hereditary bleeding disorder caused by a lack of blood clotting factor IX. Without enough factor IX, the blood cannot clot properly to control bleeding.

**Early Detection**
Recommended: Regular physical examination and preemptive testing for factor IX, especially prior to surgery.

**Why Needed**
Hemophilia A can cause bleeding.

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**Optimum Wellness Plans® and Birman Cats**

**Included in the Active Prevention Plan**
- Comprehensive physical examinations
- Ophthalmic (eye) examination (including fundic examination of the interior of the eye)
- Annual urinalysis and bloodwork to check blood glucose levels, liver and kidney function
- Annual dental cleaning

**Plus the preventive care in each plan and 15% off on nearly all products and services**

**Consult your Banfield medical team for the best plan medical level for your individual pet.**

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