Mast Cell Tumors

Description
Normal mast cells help your dog respond to inflammation and allergies. When they rapidly reproduce and become cancerous they produce lumps and can spread throughout the body. They can release normally safe chemicals in large doses that become dangerous. Early detection is vital as surgical removal can cure the cancer.

Early Detection
Recommended: comprehensive physical examinations twice a year. Also, fine needle aspirates of all masses or lumps to examine the cells.

Why Needed
Mast cell tumors can contribute to:
- Gastric ulcers
- Internal bleeding
- Allergic type reactions
- Death

Demodecic Mange (Demodex)

Description
Demodex is a condition where mites live in the hair follicles of affected dogs. The dog’s immune system has a defect that keeps him or her from keeping the mites under control.

Early Detection
Recommended: comprehensive physical examinations twice a year, skin scrape if hair loss or other signs are present.

Why Needed
Demodex can contribute to:
- Discomfort
- Dry, irritated skin
- Hair loss
- Skin lesions
- Secondary infections

Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) Tear

Description
The cruciate ligaments are muscles that hold the knee joints together. If they get torn it is very painful and allows the knee joints to slide back and forth. This is the most common orthopedic injury in active dogs with a straight up and down hind leg structure.

Early Detection
Recommended: orthopedic exams twice a year. Your veterinarian may also discuss weight management as a preventive measure.

Why Needed
An ACL Tear can contribute to:
- Pain
- Arthritis
- Reduced mobility
- The need for surgery

Optimum Wellness Plans® and Pit Bulls

Included in the Essential Wellness Plan
- Orthopedic examinations twice a year*
  *Part of the comprehensive examination

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

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For other breed handouts go to banfield.com/dogbreeds.