



Young Boxer

Boxers are a powerful, high-spirited and curious breed. 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 dog.

Dilated Cardiomyopathy

Description

Dilated cardiomyopathy is a disease where the heart becomes enlarged, weaker and thinner. It eventually cannot effectively pump blood and can lead to heart failure. Some Boxers also develop heart arrhythmias (disturbances in the rate and rhythm of the heart beat).

Early Detection

Recommended: an annual blood pressure check, electrocardiogram, chest x-rays and sometimes an ultrasound of the heart (echocardiogram).

Why Needed

Dilatative cardiomyopathy can contribute to:

- Weakness
- Fainting
- Labored breathing or coughing
- Gradual heart failure
- Sudden death

Gastric Dilatation and Volvulus

Description

Gastric dilatation and volvulus is when the stomach fills with fluid and gas and then twists on itself. It is also called bloat. This can cut off the blood supply to the stomach and spleen.

Warning Signs

There is no early detection for this disorder. Deep-chested dogs, like Boxers, are much more likely to develop this disorder. Look for signs of dry heaving, grunting, restlessness or distress, and/or a bulging of the abdomen.

Why Important

Gastric dilatation and volvulus is an emergency situation and often fatal if not treated very quickly. Rush to our hospital or an animal emergency clinic immediately if signs are noticed.

Preventive measures

The best thing to do is to feed your dog 2-3 smaller meals a day instead of one large one, and to avoid strenuous exercise right after eating. There is a surgery (prophylactic gastropexy) that can be performed that limits the stomach's ability to twist. Discuss this option with your veterinarian.

Cancer

Description

Boxers are prone to several types of cancers, including:

- Hemangiosarcoma
- Lymphoma
- Mast cell tumors

Early Detection

Recommended: comprehensive exams twice a year. Also, a fine needle aspirate of all masses or lumps to examine the cells. Early detection is the key to curing and managing these cancers.

Why Needed

Cancer can contribute to:

- Pain
- Weakness
- Gastric ulcers
- Internal bleeding
- Labored breathing
- Death

Optimum Wellness Plans® and Boxers

Included in the Special Care Plan

- Annual electrocardiograms (the recommended wellness plan includes two a year)
- Chest x-rays—three views
- Comprehensive examinations twice a year

Plus the preventive care in each plan and 20% off on nearly all products and services

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



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