



Young Shih Tzu

Shih Tzus are a sweet, playful and clever 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.

Photo courtesy of Yves Lanceau

Periodontal Disease

Description

Periodontal disease, which is inflammation and infection of gum tissue, occurs when plaque and tartar are allowed to build up on teeth. It progresses to gum recession, and bone and tooth loss.

Early Detection

Recommended: oral exams twice a year and annual dental cleanings.

Why Needed

Periodontal disease can contribute to:

- Pain
- Difficulty eating
- Jaw bone and/or tooth loss
- Kidney, liver and heart disease
- Behavioral changes

Atopy

Description

Atopy is allergies to inhaled substances such as pollens, mold and dust. This is similar to hay fever in humans, but skin itchiness is the most common sign in dogs.

Early Detection

Recommended: comprehensive examinations twice a year. Allergy testing is the best way to diagnose atopy.

Why Needed

Atopy can contribute to:

- Discomfort
- Regular scratching and rubbing
- Chronic skin infections
- Other skin issues and lesions from the constant scratching
- Chronic or recurrent ear infections

Urolithiasis

Description

Urolithiasis is the formation of stones in the urinary tract, usually in the kidney or bladder. They are commonly referred to as kidney or bladder stones. These stones irritate the lining of the urinary tract and can also be a source of recurrent urinary tract infections.

Early Detection

Recommended: an annual urinalysis to detect blood or crystals in the urine.

Why Needed

Urolithiasis can contribute to:

- Difficulty urinating
- Blood in the urine
- Kidney damage
- Inability to urinate which can be fatal
- The need for surgery

Keratoconjunctivitis Sicca (KCS)

Description

KCS is an inflammatory disease of the eye where the tear glands no longer produce enough tears to keep the eyes moist. This can progress to excessive discharge, dry eyes, and recurrent eye infections.

Early Detection

Recommended: starting at age 2, an annual Schirmer Tear Test to determine tear production.

Why Needed

KCS can contribute to:

- Pain
- Eye infection
- Eye ulcers
- Vision loss

Optimum Wellness Plans® and Shih Tzus Included in the Active Prevention Plan

- Oral examinations twice a year*
- Annual dental cleaning
- Annual urinalysis
- Ophthalmic examinations twice a year*

*Part of the comprehensive examination



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

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

