



# Young Chihuahua

*Chihuahuas are an alert, highly intelligent and courageous 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.*

## 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

## Patellar Luxation

### Description

Patellar luxation is when the kneecap pops out of place. This is due to the groove in the femur being too shallow or the ligaments that hold the kneecap in place pulling it off to the side.

### Early Detection

**Recommended:** orthopedic examinations twice a year. Your veterinarian may also discuss weight management as a preventive measure.

### Why Needed

Patellar luxation can contribute to:

- Pain
- Arthritis
- Scraping of the kneecap against the femur
- Reduced mobility
- The need for surgery in severe cases

## 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.

### 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

## Mitral Valve Disease

### Description

Mitral valve disease is a progressive condition where the mitral valve of the heart degrades. As the mitral valve degrades, it cannot close properly and small amounts of blood lead back into the left atrium. Eventually congestive heart failure occurs.

### Early Detection

**Recommended:** an annual electrocardiogram.

### Why Needed

Mitral valve disease can contribute to:

- Dyspnea (difficulty breathing)
- Coughing
- Exercise intolerance
- Weakness
- Congestive heart failure

## Optimum Wellness Plans® and Chihuahuas

### Included in the Active Prevention Plan

- Oral examinations twice a year\*
- Annual dental cleaning
- Orthopedic examinations twice a year\*
- Annual urinalysis

\*Part of the comprehensive examination

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 level for your individual pet.

For other breed handouts go to [banfield.com/dogbreeds](http://banfield.com/dogbreeds).

