



Young German Shepherd

German Shepherds 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. For more information about your pet, talk to your Banfield medical team.

Hip Dysplasia

Description

Hip dysplasia is an inherited condition leading to malformation of the hips and usually arthritis. It can lead to related conditions in the elbow. Early treatment is key in managing this condition.

Early Detection

Recommended: orthopedic examinations twice a year. Radiographs typically at 2 years of age or earlier if signs develop. Your veterinarian may also discuss weight management as a preventive measure.

Why Needed

Hip dysplasia can contribute to:

- Pain
- Arthritis
- Lameness
- Reduced mobility
- The need for surgery

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 German Shepherds, 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.

Keratoconjunctivitis Sicca (KCS) and Pannus

Description

KCS and Pannus are both eye diseases. KCS is an inflammatory disease of the eye where the tear glands no longer produce enough tears to keep the eyes moist. (Pannus) is an immune-mediated eye disease where blood vessels and scar tissue invade the cornea.

Early Detection

Recommended: starting at age 2, an annual Schirmer Tear Test to determine tear production for KCS. Ophthalmic examinations twice a year for Pannus. Early detection is important for managing Pannus and maintaining your dog's vision.

Why Needed

KCS and Pannus can contribute to:

- Pain
- Eye ulcers
- Recurrent eye infection
- Excessive discharge and dry eyes
- Conjunctival inflammation
- Vision loss

Optimum Wellness Plans® and German Shepherds

Included in the Essential Wellness Plan

- Orthopedic examinations twice a year*
- Ophthalmic examinations twice a year*

*Part of the comprehensive examination

Plus the preventive care in each plan and 10% 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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