



## So what do I need to do again? Routine Vet Care for Exotic Pets!

Traditional pet owners (ie those that have dogs and cats) generally have a fairly good idea about what routine veterinary care their pet needs as both dogs and cats have been kept for many generations. As more and more exotic animals are starting to be kept as pets we thought we would cover what routine veterinary care is recommended for each of the commonly kept species as sometimes it can be a little confusing.

To start with here is a quick summary about what each term means:

- **Sterilisation (desexing or neutering):** this refers to the surgical (or in some cases chemical) removal of part of an animal's reproductive tract under a full general anaesthetic. Males are generally 'castrated' and females generally undergo a 'spey' (which generally refers to an ovariohysterectomy).
- **Microchipping:** this involves the implantation (using a medium sized specialized needle) of a small microchip under your pets skin (for most mammals and reptiles) or into one of their muscles (for most birds). The microchip is about the size of a small grain of rice. The main function of a microchip is to allow your pet to be scanned (using a specialized scanner) and tracked back to you if they escape. The scanner reads the microchip and gives a specialized number that links to your contact details.
- **Vaccinations:** this involves injecting a specialized liquid that contains inactivated virus particles to immunize your pet against dangerous diseases. Your pet's immune system reacts to the vaccine after it is given and makes your pet better prepared to fight off any infection if they are actually exposed to the real virus. Often an initial course is needed and then biannual to annual 'boosters' to ensure your pets is protected as best as they can be.
- **Nail clipping:** Some pets require their nails to be trimmed or shaped to prevent them from overgrowing too much and causing problems
- **Health check-ups:** All exotic pets are great at hiding any illnesses so check-ups every 6-12 months (or more regular if your pet is older or has a chronic illness) are very important. This involves the vet examining your pet and checking over their body systems as well as their weight and dental health (where relevant).
- **Sexing:** this one is fairly self-explanatory and involves determining if your pet is a boy or a girl

Now that you are experts on what routine procedures actually involve the following gives a summary of what is recommended for each species in Australia (a black box means that is recommended):





	Sterilisation	Microchipping	Vaccination	Nail clipping	Health Check Ups	Sexing		
<b>Ferrets</b>								
<b>Rabbits</b>								
<b>Guinea Pigs</b>								
<b>Rats and Mice</b>								
<b>Reptiles</b>								
<b>Amphibians</b>								
<b>Birds</b>								Chickens should be vaccinated either while they are in the egg or when they are a day old

If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

