



Compassionate, high-quality care for your family and you!

FELINE SENIOR WELLNESS YEARLY PACKAGE

Because it is not unusual to discover problems as your pet ages, we recommend a comprehensive blood profile be done when your pet is in for the annual vaccination and “12 Body System” wellness exam. These tests will screen the various organ systems noted for problems that may not be detectable on the physical exam. When problems are detected early, they can usually be managed effectively. Since animals age approximately 7 years to our 1- year, an annual exam is extremely important to the health of your pet.

This package includes a 20% discount on a dental cleaning done within three months.

The blood panel serves as an extension of the physical exam and includes these fourteen (14) tests:

Complete Blood Count (infection, anemia, allergy, blood disorders)

Glucose (blood sugar)

Albumin Level (blood clotting, liver function)

ALT (liver test)

ALKP (liver, bowel, bone)

AMYL (pancreatic function)

Bilirubin (liver, gall bladder)

BUN (kidney)

Calcium (bone)

Creatinine (kidney function)

Packed Cell Volume (nutrition, hydration, anemia)

Phosphate (kidney, bone)

Total protein (liver, diet, immune function)

Thyroid Screening Test (evaluates thyroid function)

Also included are:

- **Fecal Exam (a small stool sample is tested for intestinal parasites)**
- **Rabies Vaccination (this vaccine is given every 2 years)**
- **FVRCP Booster**
- **Feline Leukemia Booster**
- **Blood Pressure Evaluation (helps diagnose high blood pressure prior to kidney and heart damage)**
- **Feline Combo Test (tests for Feline Leukemia and Feline Aids)**

Why are these tests important?

1. They can detect problems in a very early state and afford us better opportunity to treat or control such problems.
2. Also, it is extremely important to establish a baseline of normal values for your pet, especially in younger years. This becomes most significant as your pet ages and has the need for lab work later on.

Mozzie Parker, DVM



Your Pet's Human Age

age	0-20#	20-50#	50-90#	>90#
1	7	7	8	9
2	13	14	16	18
3	20	21	24	26
4	26	27	31	34
5	33	34	38	41
6	40	42	45	49
7	44	47	50	56
8	48	51	55	64
9	52	56	61	71
10	56	60	66	78
11	60	65	72	86
12	64	69	77	93
13	68	74	82	101
14	72	78	88	108
15	76	83	93	115
16	80	87	99	123
17	84	92	104	131
18	88	96	109	139
19	92	101	115	
20	96	105	120	



SENIOR CATS-GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Keep vaccinations current.
- Brush frequently to keep hair coat from matting.
- Clip toenails as needed to prevent overgrowth.
- Keep fresh water available at all times and monitor consumption.
- Monitor urine output by measuring wet litter.
- Weigh on the same scale and record results at least every 2 months.

Present the pet for examination if you observe any of the following:

- Sustained, significant increase in water consumption. (More than 1.5 cups/day for the average cat)
- Sustained, significant increase in wet litter.
- Weight loss
- Significant decrease in appetite for 2 consecutive days, or failure to eat for 24 hours.
- Significant increase in appetite.
- Repeated vomiting.
- Diarrhea that lasts over 3 days.
- Difficulty in passing stool or urine or prolonged sitting in the litter box.
- Change in litter box habits, especially if inappropriate urination or defecation occurs.

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- Lameness that lasts more than 3 days, or lameness in more than one leg.
- Noticeable decrease in vision, especially if sudden in onset or pupils that do not constrict in bright light.
- Masses, ulcerations (open sores), or multiple scabs on the skin that persists more than 1 week.
- Foul mouth odor or drooling that lasts more than 2 days.
- Increased size of the abdomen.
- Increasing inactivity especially increases in sleeping.
- Hair loss, especially if accompanied by scratching or if in specific areas of the body.
- Reluctance or inability to chew dry food.
- Persistent coughing, gagging, or panting.
- Seizures (convulsions)



SENIOR CATS-MANAGING ITS HEALTH

Optimum health care can add years to the life of your pet as well as substantially decrease your cost of treating medical problems associated with aging. We would make the following recommendations:

Comprehensive Physical Examinations:

Since pets age 5-7 times faster than humans, it can be estimated that one physical examination for a pet is equivalent to one exam every 5-7 years in humans. We strongly feel that all pets need a very detailed medical exam with a "nose to tail" physical examination twice yearly. In later years, more comprehensive physical examinations should be performed at least every six months depending on any specific medical problems discovered in your pet.

Laboratory Screening for early diagnosis of diseases:

Many medical problems can be diagnosed through the use of laboratory diagnostic testing long before clinical signs of disease become evident. Specific recommendations for your pet may include:

- Internal Parasite Examination
- Heartworm Testing
- Feline Leukemia/Feline AIDS Testing
- Urinalysis
- Complete Blood Counts
- Blood Chemistry Screening
- Thyroid Screening

Nutrition:

Feed the highest quality cat food you can afford. Read labels carefully. Ideal diets for senior pets would have less sodium and fat, and more fiber than regular adult foods. Higher quality and premium foods are more digestible and result in less stool volume. Constipation is a common and uncomfortable problem in older cats. The fiber content is very important—and supplements may be needed as well. Do not constantly switch brands of food. Older cats are more prone to dietary upset from too much variety in the foods they eat. If a specific medical condition is diagnosed, a specific prescription diet may be best for your pet. Do not feed table scraps or snacks unless formulated for the senior pet. **CAUTION:** Be sure your older cat does not have to compete for food with other pets. You may need to feed older animals separately to ensure they are receiving their fair share.

Fresh, Clean Water:

As the pet gets older, water consumption becomes much more important. Increased thirst and water consumption is a very important in several senior pet medical problems. Be sure to notify the clinic if you see changes in water consumption.

Keep Your Pet Under Control:

Letting pets run loose takes years off their life. Statistics show cats living totally inside live much longer. Be sure your pet wears an **ID Tag** if it goes outside and have him microchipped. Older pets lose their sense of hearing and vision; increasing the chances they will become lost or injured.

Vaccinations:

Depression of the immune system occurs in older pets making them more susceptible to the common infectious diseases. Maintaining vaccinations is very important because of the potential for decreased resistance as the pet ages. Vaccination recommendations must be individualized for each pet based on breed, age, physical condition, diseases prevalent in the area, etc.

Heartworm Prevention:

Heartworm preventatives are strongly recommended. Heartworm disease is very serious and often fatal. Unlike heartworm disease in dogs, there is no treatment for heartworm disease in cats. Indoor pets as well as outdoor pets have often contracted heartworm disease if not taking preventatives. The disease is easy to prevent. A simple once-a-month dosage is available. As a bonus, some of the newer heartworm preventatives prevent a whole list of other internal parasites as well. While numbers of diagnosed cases are relatively small at this point in time, it makes good sense to administer preventatives since there still is no treatment available if a cat should become infected.

Prevent Obesity:

Extra pounds burden the heart, kidneys, muscles, & joints, decreasing life expectancy 30-50%. It is much harder to lose weight than to prevent the weight gain. If your pet is prone to weight gains, feeding diets made to maintain weight and limited access to food is important for control.

Dental Hygiene:

Periodontal Disease is a very serious problem in senior pets. Tartar buildup is a result of bacterial infection in the mouth. Once these bacteria become attached to the teeth below the gum line, it becomes a "seed" of infection that spreads all over the body. Many respiratory, kidney, liver, and heart infections are a result of bacteria spreading from the mouth. It is important to note that the "real" problem is what you don't see (what is below the gum line) rather than what you do see (above the gum line.) What you don't see can certainly be slowly killing your pet. Dental exams, routine use of dental hygiene products, and dental scaling/polishing are important for a healthy mouth. Consider feeding the new feline diets now available to aid keeping teeth clean. (Prescription Diet t/d™)

Grooming & Nail Trimming:

Maintaining healthy skin & toe nails makes your pet more comfortable, prevents odor, and makes your pet "shine." Notify the clinic if you observe excessive scratching, flaking, fleas, ticks, sores, or bald spots. Skin growths are also more common in senior pets. Early removal decreases pain, your costs, and chances of spreading. Brushing your cat regularly to prevent mats and tangles maintains healthy skin. After brushing, wipe off loose hair with a damp towel. This also helps prevent hairballs. Older cats sometimes get lazy in their grooming habits, especially if arthritis or obesity makes it hard for them to stretch and bend. Keeping the toenails trimmed is also very important. Sanitary clips are recommended for long haired cats.

Flea & Tick Control:

We have excellent weapons in our war on fleas & ticks. We recommend Advantage Multi or Revolution, which covers heartworms as well. These products are available at the clinic. **DO NOT BE FOOLED!** The over-the-counter "look alike" are not the same-and in fact can be fatal to your pet.

Medicating Your Pet:

NEVER give human medications or medications prescribed for other pets to your senior pets. The liver and/or kidneys once administered must break down most drugs. There can be very serious complications if a medication is given to a pet that has compromised internal organs. **NEVER GIVE ASPIRIN, IBUPROFEN, OR TYLENOL-** type products **TO YOUR CAT.** *One Extra-Strength Tylenol™ can kill your cat.*

Maintain A Constant Environment:

Tolerance to heat and cold decreases with age. Warmth also lessens the signs of arthritis.

Scoop Out Your Cat's Litter Box Daily:

We recommend using a litter that can be completely changed each day. Cheap plastic garbage bags make practical litter pan liners. If you choose to use the "scoop able" litter, it is important to remove the "clumps" to minimize bacteria content. *Remember that your cat walks through the litter box and then licks its feet to clean itself.* This normal function can result in diarrhea if the litter box is not cleaned to remove the majority of contamination. Remember that arthritis in your older cat may create trouble entering and exiting the litter box. A shallower pan may be required to prevent elimination accidents outside the litter box or it may need to be moved to a more accessible location if steps are required to reach the box. Impacted anal glands can also cause defecation just outside the litter box. Avoid changes in the brand of cat litter used. Cats don't like change, especially the perfumed litter. **NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY IF THE CAT BEGINS TO ELIMINATE IN INAPPROPRIATE LOCATIONS.** Quite often, this is a signal of a medical problem.



SENIOR PETS -NUTRITION

Nutritional requirements change with age. Changes in the senses of taste and smell affect appetite. Changes in exercise and other activity affect the body's nutritional requirements. As the pet ages, certain body requirements will increase and certain needs will decrease.

Older pets, like older people, often suffer from nutritional deficiencies. As the pet ages, body functions are not as efficient. Nutrients are not absorbed as readily from the intestinal tract. Various organs, such as the thyroid gland, do not always continue to function properly. **NUTRITIONAL EXCESSES**, as well as deficiencies, are common in older pets. **OBESITY** is the #1 cause of malnutrition in pets.

Feeding the proper diet becomes critical in the aging pet. The effects of a lifetime of living start appearing with age, including the effects of good or poor diets. **AVOID TABLESCRAPS**, as this not only can upset their nutritional balance but also leads to stomach upsets and/or diarrhea. It is important to avoid foods with high salt content as well.

DENTAL HYGIENE IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF NUTRITION:

Dental disease can make chewing painful, as well as spread infections to the major body organs from the mouth and tooth roots.

SENIOR PETS SHOULD BE FED DIETS DESIGNED FOR OLDER PETS:

As the pet ages, quality of the diet becomes much more important. Diets for senior pets should have limited amounts of sodium, phosphorous, protein, and fat, all of which can harm an older pet's health if fed in excess. **WE NEVER RECOMMEND GENERIC OR CHEAP FOODS FOR A SENIOR PET.**

If your pet has an age-related illness, such as kidney disease, specific diets formulated to minimize damage to these organs can add years to the life of your pet. Laboratory blood screening allows detection of many of these potential problems much earlier allowing dietary changes to minimize the effects of aging.

In cats, it is now known that **LOW POSTASSIUM** is a major cause of kidney failure. Potassium deficiency causes no signs until in the advanced stages, and eventually leads to muscle weakness and collapse.

WEIGHT CONTROL IS ONE OF YOUR BIGGEST OBSTACLES. Avoid table scraps, high protein diets, junk food, and snacks. Measure & feed the appropriate amount of food recommended for your pet according to its requirements. Use only snacks recommended by your veterinarian, such as Prescription Diet t/d™.

WHAT YOU FEED YOUR PET EVERY DAY IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT COMPONENTS OF GOOD HEALTH CARE. Choose wisely using the advice of your veterinarian. It can mean the difference between a long, healthy life and one that's not.