

Warwick Animal Hospital

Senior Care Health Checklist

If your pet is a Senior (see chart below) and is experiencing one or more of the following signs, be sure to bring it to our attention today. What may look like normal aging could be a manageable health condition.

Is Your Pet "Over 40"?					
Pet's Age	Cat	Dog (in Pounds)			
		0-20	21-50	51-90	>90
5	36	36	37	40	42
6	40	40	42	45	49
7	44	44	47	50	56
8	48	48	51	55	64
9	52	52	56	61	71
10	56	56	60	66	78
11	60	60	65	72	86
12	64	64	69	77	93
13	68	68	74	82	101
14	72	72	78	88	108
15	76	76	83	93	115
16	80	80	87	99	123
17	84	84	92	104	
18	88	88	96	109	
19	92	92	101	115	
20	96	96	105	120	
Relative Age of Your Pet in "Human Years"					
Senior		Super Senior			

Signs	Yes	No
Difficulty Climbing Stairs		
Difficulty Jumping Up		
Increased Stiffness or Limping		
Loss of Housebreaking; House Soiling		
Changes in Litter Box Habits (cats)		
Increased Thirst		
Increased Urination		
Changes in Activity Level		
Excessive Panting, Change in Breathing		
Circling/Repetitive Movements		
Confusion or Disorientation		
Excessive Barking/Meowing		
Less Interaction with Family/Hiding		
Decreased Responsiveness		
Tremors or Shaking		
Skin and Haircoat Changes		
Lumps or Bumps		
Excessive Scratching		
Changes in Sleeping Patterns/Locations		
Less Enthusiastic Greeting, Behavior		
Altered Appetite		
Weight Change		
Vomiting/Diarrhea		
Bad Breath		
Other		

We recognize how important your special family members are to you and would like to keep them happy and healthy for as long a time as possible. Like us, senior pets develop special problems and special needs. Our goal is to recognize and meet these special needs.

Arthritis, common in senior pets, can now be treated with effective pain control medications to increase your pet's quality of life.

There are many other diseases older pets develop which can be treated and managed if they are found early in the development of the disease, before there are any signs at home that there is a problem. Pets who are acting normal may have early kidney disease, liver disease, periodontal disease, and other painful and debilitating diseases. If you wait until your pet actually acts sick before starting treatment, it is much less likely that the problem can be controlled.

(Over)

“Old age” is not a disease! Many of the behavioral and mental changes seen in older pets are not simply due to “old age.” These changes may represent a disease syndrome called Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome (CDS) and may be treatable with medication or an innovative new diet. Symptoms include:

Disorientation

- Wanders aimlessly
- Appears lost or confused in house or yard
- Gets “stuck” in corners or under/behind furniture
- Stares into space or at walls
- Has difficulty finding the door; stands at “hinge” side of door; stands at wrong door to go outside
- Does not recognize familiar people
- Does not respond to verbal cues or name
- Appears to forget reason for going outdoors

Activity and Sleep

- Sleeps more (overall) in a 24-hour day
- Sleeps less during the night
- Decrease in purposeful activity in a 24-hour day
- Increase in aimless activity (wanders, paces) in a 24-hour day

Housetraining

- Urinates indoors
- Defecates indoors
- Urinates or defecates indoors in view of parents
- Urinates or defecates indoors soon after being outside
- Signals less to go outside

Interaction with Family Members

- Solicits attention less
- Less likely to stand/lie for petting (walks away)
- Less enthusiastic upon greeting
- No longer greets parents (after realizing you have arrived home)

To help you keep your senior pet happy, healthy and comfortable for as many years as possible, Warwick Animal Hospital offers a special health care examination package for senior pets.

Wellness Blood Screen and Urinalysis

During your pet's wellness visit, one of our doctors will do a thorough physical examination. At this time, we recommend a general blood screen and urinalysis to make sure that all is well on the “inside”, too. A complete blood count and chemistry profile can unmask diseases such as platelet disorders, kidney insufficiency, and liver problems before they become severe and life threatening. The results also provide an important benchmark for the future care of your pet. We recommend these tests yearly in pets up to 7 years of age and every 6 months for pets 7 years and older. All that is required to perform these tests is a small blood sample and some urine; results are available within one working day. Please let the receptionist know if you would like these valuable tests for your pet.