

How to care for pets as they age

As pets age you may notice a few changes such as weight changes, elimination habits and/or water consumption. Schedule an exam with your veterinarian to assess mobility and comfort to see if medical management of pain/arthritis might be needed.

Try some of these simple practices to make your senior pet more comfortable at home:



▶ Mental exercises are just as important as physical exercise for your pet's well-being. Follow their lead when it comes to the length of activities and don't force them to overdo it.



▶ Provide a warm, cozy resting place for your pet to easily reach without jumping or climbing stairs



▶ Make sure food and water is easily accessible to your pet at all times and try to monitor any changes in consumption

It's helpful to **keep track of behavioral changes** with a journal or checklist as part of your pet's medical history. If you notice anything unusual, bring your pet in for an evaluation as soon as possible.

Ask your veterinarian about diagnostic health screening for your pet

Your veterinarian may be able to **detect issues earlier and treat them sooner with simple diagnostic health screening** designed for your senior pet. Diagnostic screening is also used to establish individual baselines to closely monitor your pet's health. This hospital uses Zoetis Diagnostics to aid in the evaluation of your pet's health.



Schedule preventive care visits

Preventive care visits with your veterinarian are the perfect time for you to ask medical questions, track behavioral and weight changes, and receive tips for at-home care. Some topics that may be covered during your visit include:

- Behavior/Mobility
- Environment
- Elimination
- Nutrition
- Oral health
- Parasite control
- Vaccination
- Diagnostic screening

Schedule your next appointment today!



Diagnostic Health Screening

FOR SENIOR PETS





How old is your pet in human years?

Cats and dogs age faster than people; one human year can be equivalent to multiple years of your pet’s life. Use the chart below to find out approximately how old your pet is in human years and speak with your veterinarian about their life stage.

→ Aging and undetected disease are why regular diagnostic screening may be recommended by your veterinarian.

DETERMINE YOUR PET’S LIFE STAGE











Mature	Senior/Geriatric
 Your cat’s age¹	Equivalent age in human years
7–10 years	44–56 years
11–14 years	60–72 years
≥ 15 years	76+ years

 Your dog’s age²	Your dog’s weight			
	< 9kg	9–22 kg	23–41 kg	> 41 kg
	Equivalent age in human years			
7–9 years	44–52	47–56	50–61	56–71
10–12 years	56–64	60–65	66–77	78–93
12–13 years	64–68	69–74	77–82	93–101
14+ years	72+	78+	88+	108+

1. Data on file, AR-04713, Zoetis Inc.
2. Data on file, AR-08700, Zoetis Inc.

Diagnostic health screening recommendations*

Use the age chart on the left with the table below to see what specific tests your veterinarian may recommend based on your pet’s physical exam, life stage, and individual needs.

 	CHEMISTRY PANEL Provides information on several organ systems, important proteins, and electrolytes.
 	COMPLETE BLOOD COUNT (CBC) Provides information on red and white cell counts to detect anemia, inflammation and platelets involved in blood clotting.
 	URINALYSIS Provides information on the urinary system and helps interpret the chemistry panel.
 	FECAL Screens for intestinal parasites.
 	INFECTIOUS DISEASE In dogs, screens for parasitic diseases such as heartworm and tick-borne diseases. In cats, screening is lifestyle dependent for diseases such as Heartworm, Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV).
 	THYROID TESTING Determines if the thyroid gland is functioning normally. Recommended for senior cats and dogs with clinical signs.
	BLOOD PRESSURE Screens for hypertension or hypotension that can accompany certain diseases.

* Recommended by the American Animal Hospital Association and the American Association of Feline Practitioners.

Why wait until your pet is showing signs of disease?

Preventive care exams and diagnostic testing are an easy, fast, and affordable way that may allow for improved longevity and quality of life.

Common diseases in senior pets

It’s important to perform regular diagnostic testing recommended by your veterinarian. The sooner you find any abnormalities, the faster you can take action to help your pet. Many diseases can be treated and monitored with early diagnosis.

Cancer



Dental Disease



Hypothyroid Disease



Heart Disease



Liver Disease



Kidney Disease



Intestinal Disease



Hyperthyroid Disease

