



Veterinary Hospital

FELINE SENIOR WELLNESS PROGRAM

For Cats 7 years and older

While your cat may *seem* healthy well into its senior years, there are many problems common to senior cats (like cancer, diabetes, dental disease, hypertension, and hyperthyroidism) that may not present symptoms until your cat becomes extremely ill. A comprehensive senior examination and diagnostic work-up is an important component of any wellness program. In an apparently healthy pet, it provides a baseline that may be used for comparison in the event that disease develops. Such testing may also allow identification of disorders before clinical signs are evident, at a point when intervention may help your pet live a longer, more comfortable life. For those pets with previously identified problems, diagnostic testing can be used to monitor treatment efficacy and disease progression.

Conditions commonly found in older cats include liver disease, dental disease, heart disease, cancer, thyroid disease, and diabetes. Many symptoms of these diseases, such as drinking more water than usual, can be very subtle and difficult for owners to notice.

We strongly recommend performing a Feline Senior Wellness Program on all cats 7 years of age and older to identify diseases earlier and keep your cat healthy and living longer. This program entails a thorough physical examination by your veterinarian and eight different diagnostic tests that are very useful to your veterinarian in detecting many diseases early. **Please call us at any time to schedule this appointment for your cat.**

The Feline Senior Wellness Program includes:

Physical Examination - The single most important aspect of the wellness program is a thorough physical examination performed by your veterinarian. She may find important signs suggestive of dental disease, liver disease, heart disease, diabetes, etc.

Complete Blood Chemistry (CBC) - A complete blood chemistry is used to detect abnormalities in the red blood cells, white blood cells, inflammatory cells, and platelets (which are important to help blood clot). A CBC may indicate early or chronic infections, anemia, and other infectious and immune diseases.

Biochemistry Profile - A biochemistry profile is used to check important enzymes and by-products in the blood that are used to determine the function and disease of vital organs, such as the kidneys, liver, pancreas, muscle, and the gastrointestinal tract. This test is critical in identifying diseases such as liver disease, pancreatitis, and diabetes-before owners may notice clinical signs of illness.

Urinalysis - A urinalysis is used to detect abnormalities in the urine that could be caused from kidney, bladder, or urethral disease. The urinalysis also tests for crystals that could be found in urine-and could be crucial to preventing further bladder issues. A urinalysis is also very important for detecting early kidney disease before clinical signs occur.

Thyroid Hormone Level - Aging cats are at risk for developing a disease of the thyroid glands called hyperthyroidism (over-activity of thyroid glands.) Hyperthyroidism can cause weight loss, rapid heart rates, arrhythmias, vomiting, and diarrhea. We will test your cat's thyroid hormone to determine if your cat needs to be supplemented with medication.

Blood pressure check - Many diseases in pets can affect blood pressure, including heart disease, kidney disease and Hyperthyroidism.

Electrocardiogram (ECG) - An ECG (or EKG) is a simple test to determine any abnormalities in your cat's heart function. The ECG will be interpreted by the doctor and will provide us vital information about the health of your cat's heart.

Tonometry - Pressure readings of both eyes will be taken to screen for feline ocular diseases.

With our Feline Senior Wellness Program we want to help your pet through these years with as little difficulty and as much comfort as possible, and hopefully sustain longer life with early detection and treatment for any problems that might occur with advancing age.