



Senior Cat Wellness Program (7+yrs)



You and your cat have spent many wonderful years together. Along the way, you've watched your kitten grow into an adult and a faithful companion. And as the years go by, you are likely to see the subtle signs of aging affecting your cat. But beneath the surface, there may be any number of changes you *can't* see. The first step towards providing the best possible care for your cat is being informed. This is where our senior wellness program fits in. So when your best friend becomes senior, regular wellness exams should include a few extra tests to catch possible illnesses before they become serious.

Here is a list of some common problems that senior cats face and that you as an owner should be on the lookout for:

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| Obesity | Changes in food or water consumption |
| Bad breath | Abnormal urination or defecation |
| Loss of vision | Skin lumps, masses, or sore that do not heal |
| Dull coat, matted hair | Change in activity level |
| Weight Loss | Slowness in rising or walking |
| Hearing Loss | Persistent vocalization |
| Behavior changes | Vomiting or diarrhea |
| Coughing, sneezing | Abnormal Odors |
| Loss of balance | |

To help us detect any problems and provide the best care for your cat, we recommend the following at your senior cat's yearly visit to our clinic:

- > Thorough "Teeth-To-Tail" wellness exam
 - Check for significant weight change, and assess condition of muscles, joints, legs and spine
 - Palpate abdomen for abnormal masses or tenderness
 - Palpate thyroid and lymph nodes for signs of tumors or infections
 - Listen for heart murmurs, irregular heartbeats and abnormal lung sounds
 - Examine eyes for cataracts, glaucoma, ulcers, inflammation or other ocular disorders
 - Check nose and nasal passages for signs of upper respiratory disease or allergies
 - Evaluate teeth, tongue and palate, plus check color and condition of gums
 - Make sure coat is healthy and well-groomed, check skin for infection, tumors, or external parasites
- > Fecal exam for intestinal parasites
- > Testing for Feline Leukemia/Feline AIDS viruses if needed
- > Expanded blood chemistry panel and CBC to evaluate internal organ function and detect early diseases
- > Thyroid screening
- > Urinalysis
- > Radiographs, EKG, or other tests based on physical exam and screening tests
- > Update needed vaccinations based on risk exposure
- > Discuss flea & heartworm prevention
- > Discuss nutritional needs and make any needed adjustments
- > Discuss behavioral history
- > Discuss health insurance

Based on the health of your senior cat, we may recommend more frequent exams or additional testing. Some medications need to be periodically monitored. Our commitment to you is to provide the best quality care for your cat.

The following is a list of common diseases that affect senior cats. These diseases are what we are striving to prevent. If not prevent, then detect at an early stage and treat successfully in order to give you and your cat many more years of companionship.

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| Inflammatory bowel disease | Diabetes mellitus | Hepatopathies |
| Secondary hepatic lipidosis | Chronic renal disease | Heart Disease |
| Obesity | Cancer | Anemia |
| Dental disease | Hyperthyroidism | Urolithiasis |