



Senior Dog Wellness Program (7+yrs)



You and your dog have spent many wonderful years together. Along the way, you've watched your puppy 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 dog. But beneath the surface, there may be any number of changes you *can* see. The first step towards providing the best possible care for your dog 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 dogs 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 sores that do not heal |
| Dull coat, matted hair | Change in activity level |
| Weight loss | Slowness in rising or walking |
| Hearing Loss | Vomiting or diarrhea |
| Behavior changes | Abnormal Odors |
| Coughing, sneezing | Loss of balance |

To help us detect any problems and provide the best care for your dog, we recommend the following at your senior dog'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 heartworm infection
- > Expanded blood chemistry panel and CBC to evaluate internal organ function and detect early disease
- > 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 dog, 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 dog.

The following is a list of common diseases that affect senior dogs. 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 dog many more years of companionship.

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| Diabetes mellitus | Heart disease | Keratoconjunctivitis sicca |
| Prostatic disease | Obesity | Hyperadrenocorticism |
| Dental disease | Cataracts | Degenerative joint disease |
| Hypothyroidism | Urolithiasis | Urinary incontinence |
| Liver disease | Anemia | Chronic renal disease |