

Early Detection, Early Intervention, Increased Longevity

The three most common causes of death in the senior cat:

Kidney disease

Cancer

Infectious illness

The three most common causes of death in the senior dog:

Cancer

Heart disease

Kidney disease

Oldest Dog:

The oldest dog known is an Australian Cattle dog born in 1910. He lived for 29.5 years.

Oldest Cat:

The oldest cat known lived to 36 years.

Did you know...

1 in 200 pets develop some degree of kidney insufficiency by the age of 1.

1 in 500 pets develop diabetes.



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Caring for the Senior Pet

*Together, we can
make aging a
comfortable
process.*

How Old is Your Pet?

When does a pet become a senior?

This chart will provide a guideline:

Relative Age of Pets in Human Years

Pet's Wt.	0-20 lb	21-50	51-90	90+
1	15	15	14	12
2	23	24	22	20
3	28	29	29	28
4	32	34	34	35
5	36	38	40	42
6	40	42	45	49
7	44	47	50	56
8	48	51	55	64
9	52	56	61	71
10	56	60	66	78
11	60	65	72	86
12	64	69	77	93
13	68	74	82	101
14	72	78	88	108
15	76	83	93	115
16	80	87	99	123

Regrettably, we can not stay young forever. However, modern technology and advances allow us to remain active and healthy for ever increasing amounts of time. This is true, not only for people, but also for our furry companions.

Due to improved nutrition, vaccinations (prevention of infectious illnesses) and decreased trauma pets are living longer. We can help them to live even longer through preventive screening.

Many of the health problems associated with aging can be improved. Dental disease can be very painful and is readily corrected. Arthritis can be managed with diet, weight control, nutraceuticals and anti-inflammatory medications. The progression of kidney disease can be slowed down. Heart problems can be managed. Diabetes and hyperthyroidism can be treated. And the list goes on!

The key to managing diseases in the senior pet is early detection. Most diseases in the senior pet can be cured or managed if detected early enough.

How Can You Help?

Annual or Biennial Exams

The most important step you can take is to ensure your pet receives a full physical exam from the nose to the tail at least once yearly. As your pet becomes older (for example, the equivalent of a 55 year old person) consider having a physical exam every 6 months. This would be the same as people receiving an exam every 2 to 3.5 years.

Laboratory Senior Wellness Profile

A complete blood count, chemistry and urinalysis tests over 60 parameters giving us a good insight into the functioning of the entire body. These should be performed yearly in pets over the human equivalent age of 45. Once the pet becomes the human equivalent of 60, perform these tests every six months if possible. This would be the equivalent of a 60 year old person receiving blood & urine tests every 2-4 years.

Screening Radiographs

These can help detect changes in the heart, disc disease, arthritis and the development of some cancers. Follow the recommendations for the Laboratory Senior Wellness Profile for radiographs (x-rays).