

How to care for pets as they age

Older pets tend to be less playful and/or active. They may sleep more and experience weight changes. It may become difficult for them to reach their favourite places. Certain diseases may change elimination habits and/or water consumption.

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



▶ As pets age, they slow down. Try to keep them moving with environment modifications, that will help reduce joint pain



▶ Provide a warm, cozy resting place that your pet can get to easily



▶ 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 behavioural changes** with a journal or checklist as part of your pet's medical history. If you notice anything unusual, contact your veterinary team to see if a visit and physical evaluation is recommended.

Ask your veterinarian about diagnostic testing for your pet

Your veterinarian may be able to **detect issues earlier and treat them sooner with simple wellness health screening** designed for your senior pet. Diagnostic screening is also used to establish a patient baselines to closely monitor your pet's health as it ages. This clinic uses Zoetis diagnostics to aid in the evaluation of your pet's health.

Schedule wellness visits

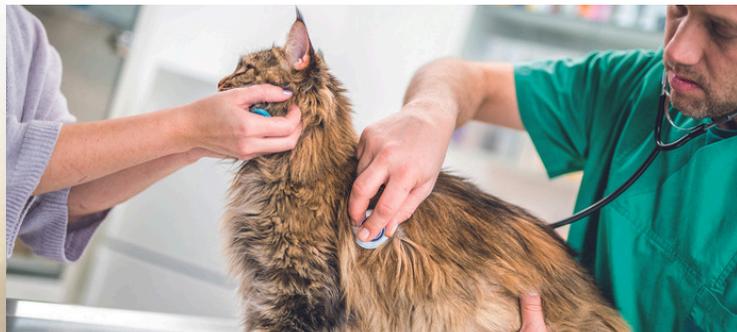
Wellness visits with your veterinarian are the perfect time for you to ask medical questions, track behavioural and weight changes, and receive tips for at-home care. Some topics that may be covered during your visit include:

- Behaviour
- Environment
- Oral health
- Nutrition
- Urination & defaecation habits
- Parasite control
- Vaccination
- Diagnostic screening

Schedule your next appointment today!

Senior Wellness Health Screening

A PET CARER'S GUIDE



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.

▶ **Ageing and undetected disease are why regular diagnostic health screening may be recommended by your veterinarian.**

Determine your pet's life stage

Mature 🐾	Senior/Geriatric 🐾
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Your Cat's Age	Equivalent age in human years
7-10 years	44-56 years
11-14 years	60-72 years
≥ 15 years	76+ years

Your Dog's Age	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+

Wellness 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.

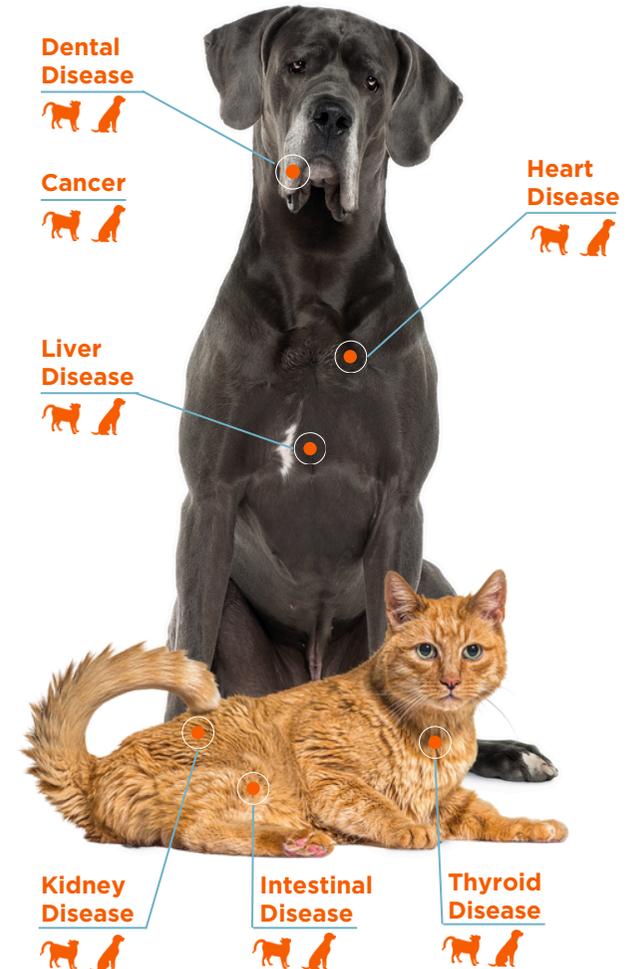
🐾	CHEMISTRY PANEL Provides information on several organ systems, important proteins, and electrolytes.
🐾	COMPLETE BLOOD COUNT (CBC) Provides information on red and white cell counts to detect anaemia, inflammation and platelets involved in blood clotting.
🐾	URINALYSIS Provides information on the urinary system and helps interpret the chemistry panel.
🐾	FAECAL Screens for intestinal parasites.
🐾	INFECTIOUS DISEASE In dogs, screens for parasitic diseases such as tick-borne diseases. In cats, screening is lifestyle dependent for diseases such as Feline Leukaemia 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.

Why wait until your pet is showing signs of disease?

Preventative testing and wellness visits are an **easy, fast, affordable way to help ensure your pet lives a happy and healthy life.**

Common diseases in senior pets

It's important to perform regular diagnostic testing recommended by your vet. 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.**



* Recommended by the American Animal Hospital Association and the International Society of Feline Medicine (ISFM)