

Here at Okeechobee Veterinary Hospital we believe that early intervention leads to a lifetime of good health.



The health of your adult cat or adult dog can change rapidly as he or she ages, and changes can go unnoticed.

Beginning at around age 7, Your pet enters his or her Senior years

Often, pets begin to develop diseases common to their senior human counterparts, such as diabetes, heart disease, endocrine disease and cancer. These diseases can go unnoticed in their early stages; therefore, preventive health care is very important.

Early detection can help in disease prevention and can minimize suffering

If left undetected, many diseases can put your pet's health at risk. The best approach to caring for your senior pet includes preventive diagnostics such as:

- Establishing baseline blood work
- Identifying existing health problems
- Monitoring progress during treatment

Healthy Pet Checklist

- Work closely with us to evaluate your pet's general health and to monitor the physical effects aging has had on his or her mind and body.
- Schedule routine check-ups.
- Speak up for your pet. Tell us about any changes you've observed, including:
 - Weight, Appetite or Elimination
 - Food and Water Intake
 - Behavior
 - Skin and coat
 - Mobility
- Ask us about nutrition and exercise and the role they play in your pet's health.
- Know your pet's condition. Ask us about testing options that can identify health risks before they become evident, including:
 - Routine blood testing
 - Urinalysis
 - Thyroid testing
- Ask for annual screenings for life-threatening diseases, including:
 - FIV (the feline version of HIV), FeLV (feline leukemia)
 - Feline and canine heartworm infection
 - Tick-borne diseases such as canine Lyme disease and E. canis

- Ask us about the latest advances in veterinary pharmaceuticals that could impact the health of your pet.
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Watch for these signs »

Keep track and then report them to us immediately, before they become serious.

- Just not acting like himself/herself
- Interacting less often with family
- Responding less often or less enthusiastically
- Showing changes in behavior/activity level
- Having difficulty climbing stairs
- Having difficulty jumping
- Exhibiting increased stiffness or limping
- Drinking more often
- Urinating more often
- Changing eating patterns
- Noticeably gaining or losing weight
- Losing house training habits
- Changing sleeping patterns
- Becoming confused or disoriented
- Changing hair coat, skin, or new lumps or bumps
- Scratching more often
- Exhibiting bad breath/red or swollen gums
- Showing tremors or shaking
- Other

Together, we can help your pet

You know your pet better than anyone else and can alert us to any changes in your pet before they become serious. We can help you understand the common medical conditions that your senior pet faces, and discuss a regular monitoring plan.

To help keep your pet healthy, call and schedule a senior wellness exam.
(863)763-2523