



If your pet is 7 years or older, we consider him/her a “senior.” In people years, your pet is actually 44-56 yrs old and is aging 4-8 people years for every calendar year. Your pet may be acting fine, but often symptoms of diabetes, heart disease, kidney/liver or hormonal changes, and cancer can go undetected with no visible signs until your pet becomes seriously ill. A comprehensive senior care program can help your veterinarian identify problems, often early enough to institute preventative healthcare measures.

We advise a physical exam and comprehensive blood panel annually to aid in our preventative healthcare program. If your pet is a “senior pet” and has never had a blood panel performed, now would be a great opportunity for some baseline testing.

Early Detection Recommendations

-**Physical Exam** is the most important part of your pet’s visit. The veterinarian will assess all body systems to check for abnormalities (ears, eyes, mouth, gums, abdomen, heart, lungs, hair coat, body condition, range of motion of joints, and neurologic function).

-**Blood chemistries** check the liver, pancreas, and kidney enzymes.

-**T4 (thyroid level)** is a measurement of thyroid hormone circulating in the blood and is helpful in detecting this common hormonal deficiency or provide a signal for other more serious conditions in the body.

-**Complete Blood Count (CBC)** is used to evaluate red and white blood cells and platelets for signs of illness or infection.

-**Electrolytes** are important in evaluating dehydration, heart symptoms, vomiting or diarrhea. Proper balance of electrolytes should be maintained or serious side effects can occur.

-**Urinalysis** – since urine contains by-products from many organs, such as liver, kidneys, and pancreas it is important to make sure these by-products remain at proper levels.

-**Heartworm test** is used to make sure your pet is heartworm negative. A heartworm disease can be fatal if left untreated.

-**Fecal float** looks at a stool sample for microscopic eggs and parasites that live in the intestine and come out through the feces. Some of these parasites can be transmitted to people, but can also cause long-term health problems for your pet.

-**Electrocardiogram (ECG)** detects heart rate and electrical rhythm. Certain abnormal rates and rhythms can be harmful if left untreated.

-**Blood Pressure** measures for hypertension. High blood pressure can lead to kidney problems, heart disease, blindness and other complications.

-**X-Rays** are used to assess the heart and lungs and/or abdomen for abnormal organ size or tumor growth.