

Protect your senior cat with early detection! Understanding the Feline Senior Wellness Exam at Bellevue Animal Hospital, PC

Here's what you should know about your older cat and its health:

Senior pets need more care.

- As your pet ages, he or she needs more frequent physical exams and additional diagnostic tests. The best kind of health care for seniors is preventive!

Prevention is key.

- Many diseases to which older pets are susceptible are either 100% preventable with the proper preventive care or are easily managed if detected in the earliest stages.

Keep them fit.

- Proper nutrition and a regular exercise plan can help your pet live a longer, healthier life.

Our approach:

We will start by obtaining a detailed medical history. This is based on the information you provide in the history sheet you will need to fill out upon arriving to your appointment. Next, we will perform a physical exam and order diagnostic laboratory testing to establish baseline information.

Using this information, your veterinarian will give you an assessment of your pet's overall health and make recommendations for any necessary treatments or medications, follow-up diagnostics, or lifestyle changes.

How to keep your best friend around for as long as possible:

• Bring in your senior pet twice a year

Older pets should visit their veterinarian at least twice a year. Dogs and cats age 4 to 5 times faster than we do and as a result, health problems can progress much more rapidly. Ironically, because pets are living longer today, they are increasingly suffering from many of the same chronic diseases that affect humans:

- Cancer
- Diabetes
- Kidney failure
- Liver and intestinal disorders
- Arthritis
- Vision problems
- Behavioral issues related to senility
- Dental disease

Fortunately, today there are many ways we can treat these conditions and improve your pet's well being. Catching problems early *before* they become serious often means they will be easier and less expensive to treat or manage.

Your Cat's Relative Age

Pets Age:	Human Age:
4	32
6	40
8	48
10	56
12	64
14	72
16	80
18	88
20	96
21	100

SCHEDULE YOUR CAT'S CHECK-UP NOW

Please call us and schedule your cat's Senior Wellness Exam today! To ensure that we obtain the most accurate blood test results, please make sure your cat has fasted for 8 to 12 hours prior to the appointment (no food or treats.) Please do NOT withhold water, as this can be dangerous for older pets. Please do not allow your cat to urinate for two hours before the appointment. Questions? Don't hesitate to call!

This appointment takes approximately 40 minutes. If your cat has had some or all of these tests performed within the last 6 months, please feel free to call us to see if the Senior Exam is still recommended. Our phone is 402-291-1255.

Your pet's Bellevue Animal Hospital Senior Wellness Exam includes a complimentary fecal test.

Fecal (stool) tests are done to check for evidence of intestinal parasites (e.g., roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, giardia & coccidia.) It is important to check periodically for parasites (once or twice a year), even if stools are consistently normal. Intestinal parasites can cause significant problems in both pets and humans (some of these parasites are "zoonotic" - meaning they can be transmitted from animals to humans.) Specific treatment is prescribed for your pet based on the test results.

Other diagnostic tests included in the Senior Wellness Exam are described for you in detail below:

	Problem	Test	Facts
URINALYSIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kidney Disease • Urinary/Bladder Disorders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Urinalysis (Appearance, Color, Specific Gravity, Occult Blood) • WBC (White blood cells) • RBC (Red blood cells) • PH • Protein • Glucose • Ketones • Bilirubin • Casts • Crystals • Epith Cells • Bacteria 	<p>Urinalysis is a very important means of evaluating overall kidney function, especially when done in conjunction with blood tests. Urinalysis is also a key test for determining if there is a urinary tract infection or if there is inflammation in the urinary bladder. Urinalysis also helps to confirm, along with blood test, whether or not an animal has diabetes (with diabetes, either sugar or both sugar and ketones are present in the urine).</p>
BLOOD CHEMISTRIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kidney Disease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BUN • Creatinine • Calcium • Phosphorus • Potassium 	<p>Tests of kidney function (should be run in conjunction with urinalysis for the most accurate assessment of kidney function). <i>Kidney disease, if diagnosed early, can often be controlled for extended periods of time.</i></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liver Disease • Kidney Disease • Intestinal Disorder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Protein • Albumin • A/G Ratio • Globulin 	<p>Protein levels. Albumin may be decreased with disorders of the intestine, kidneys, liver, or decreased nutrient intake. The globulin level may also decrease due to intestinal disease and may increase in response to inflammation.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liver Disease • Inflammation of the Pancreas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALT • AST • ALP • GGT 	<p>Liver enzymes. These tests help indicate that there may be a problem with the liver. Liver enzyme levels may also be abnormal with inflammation of the pancreas.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jaundice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Bilirubin 	<p>A test for jaundice. Increased levels usually indicate a liver disorder (with or without concurrent disease of the pancreas) or damaged red blood cells.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parathyroid Disorder, Cancer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calcium • Phosphorus 	<p>Elevated or decreased calcium levels can be signs of a wide variety of diseases. The most common cause of increased calcium is lymphosarcoma (a type of cancer)</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diabetes • Severe Infection (Sepsis) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glucose (blood sugar) 	<p>A glucose test will detect abnormally high blood sugar levels, which may indicate diabetes. Low levels may occur with liver disease, severe infection, certain types of cancer and Addison's disease.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adrenal Disease • Decreased Kidney Function 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sodium • Potassium • NA/K Ratio • Chloride 	<p>Important body electrolytes. It is especially important that potassium levels be monitored in sick animals with decreased kidney function or adrenal disease.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hyperthyroidism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T4 	<p>Thyroid test. In cats we look for levels above normal (hyperthyroidism) This is a screening test. If the result is abnormal, more detailed thyroid testing may be necessary to determine the best course of treatment.</p>
BLOOD COUNT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WBC (White blood cells) 	<p>White blood cells help fight infection. White blood cell numbers can increase in response to inflammation and infection. In leukemia, which is a cancer of the blood system, either the numbers of white blood cells are increased or their appearance is abnormal, or both. White blood cell numbers can decrease with severe infection or with bone marrow disorders.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor Blood Clotting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Platelets 	<p>Platelets help with blood clotting. It is important to make sure that these numbers remain normal or close to normal.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anemia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Packed Cell Volume (PCV) 	<p>Tests for the presence of anemia (low red blood cell levels)</p>