

# Senior Pets Are Special to Us

Just like people, dogs and cats are prone to debilitating ailments as they age, such as kidney failure, heart disease, arthritis, dental disease, cancer and cognitive dysfunction. We now have more health care resources available to them, such as a new generation of non-steroid anti-inflammatory drugs, which keep side effects to a minimum while managing aches and pains. The most important thing a pet owner can do is schedule regular veterinary exams for their senior pets.

Remember, every year in a pet's life is equivalent to five to seven human years. So, waiting to see a veterinarian a full year would be like seeing your own doctor every seven years, and these exams are crucial for disease and problem intervention.

## Early warning signs that a senior pet may be having problems can include:

Change in appetite such as eating more or less than usual  
 Changes in behavior such as disorientation or excessive whining  
 Unusual bowel habits such as diarrhea or constipation  
 Gaining or losing weight



Increased thirst and urination  
 Loss of bladder control or noncompliance with house training  
 Repeated vomiting  
 Bad breath, drooling or changes in appetite  
 Excessive panting or exercise intolerance  
 Lumps or changes in areas of skin color



## Senior Wellness Blood Screening Panels 2011

### Canine Geriatric Comprehensive

Albumin, albumin/globulin ratio, alkaline phosphatase, ALT (SGPT), calcium, chloride, creatinine, globulin, glucose, phosphorus, potassium, sodium, sodium/potassium ratio, total protein, urea  
 CBC Full  
 Spec cPL® (pancrease)  
 Free T4 (thyroid)

### Basic Senior Wellness

Albumin, albumin/globulin ratio, alkaline phosphatase, ALT (SGPT), bilirubin (total), calcium, creatinine, globulin, glucose, phosphorus, total protein, urea  
 CBC Partial

### Feline Geriatric Comprehensive

Albumin, albumin/globulin ratio, alkaline phosphatase, ALT (SGPT), calcium, chloride, creatinine, globulin, glucose, phosphorus, potassium, sodium, sodium/potassium ratio, total protein, urea  
 CBC Full  
 Feline Cardiopet® proBNP (heart)  
 T4 (thyroid)

**Ask your veterinarian which profile is right for your pet.**

**\*\* These blood panels will screen various organ functions and may detect disease; allowing us to make treatment recommendations**

**Add on Testing: Urinalysis** (screens kidneys, and for infection) **with blood panel** (add on to any)

**T4** (thyroid function testing) **with blood panel** (add on to basic if suggested)