



Behavior Screen for Older Dogs and Cats

Please complete this form and give our team important information about your senior pet:

1. Mobility Assessment

- No alterations or debilities noted
- Modest slowness associated with change from youth to adult
- Moderation slowness associated with geriatric aging
- Moderate slowness associated with geriatric aging plus alteration or debility in gait
- Moderate slowness associated with geriatric aging plus some loss of function (i.e. cannot climb stairs)
- Severe slowness, extreme loss of function, and decreased willingness or interest in moving (spends most time in bed)
- Paralyzed or refuses to move

2. Appetite Assessment (check all that apply)

- No alterations in appetite
- Change in ability to physically handle food
- Change in ability to retain food (vomits or regurgitates)
- Change in ability to find food
- Change in interest in food
- Change in rate of eating
- Change in completion of eating

- Change in timing of eating
- Change in preferred textures of food

3. **Assessment of elimination function** (check one in each category)

Changes in frequencies and “accidents”

- No change in frequency, no “accidents”
- Increased frequency, no “accidents”
- Decreased frequency, no “accidents”
- Increased frequency with “accidents”
- Decreased frequency with “accidents”
- No change in frequency, but “accidents”

Bladder Control

- Leaks urine when asleep
- Leaks urine when awake
- Leaks urine when awake and asleep
- Full-stream, uncontrolled urination when asleep
- Full-stream, uncontrolled urination when awake
- Full-stream, uncontrolled urination when awake or asleep
- No leakage or uncontrolled urination, all urination controlled, but in inappropriate or undesirable location
- No change in urination control or behavior

Bowel Control

- Defecates when asleep
- Defecates without apparent awareness
- Defecates when awake and aware of action, but in inappropriate or undesirable locations

No changes in bowel control

4. **Visual Activity: How well do you think your dog or cat sees?** (check one)

- No change in vision detected by behavior, appears to see as well as ever
- Some change in vision not dependent on light conditions
- Some change in vision dependent on light conditions
- Extreme change in vision not dependent on light conditions
- Extreme change in vision dependent on light conditions
- Blind

5. **Auditory Acuity: How well do you think your dog or cat hears?** (check one)

- No apparent change in hearing
- Some hearing loss
- Extreme hearing loss
- Deaf

6. **Play interactions: If your dog or cat plays with toys, which situation best describes that play?** (check one)

- No change in play with toys
- Slightly decreased interest in toys
- Slightly decreased ability to play with toys
- Slightly decreased interest and ability to play with toys
- Extreme decreased interest in toys
- Extreme decreased ability to play with toys
- Extreme decreased interest and ability to play with toys

7. Interactions with people: Which situation best describes that interactions? (check one)

- No change in interactions with people
- Recognizes people but slightly decreased frequency of interaction
- Recognizes people but greatly decreased frequency of interaction
- Withdrawal but recognizes people
- Does not recognize people

8. Interactions with other pets: Which situations best describes that interaction? (check one)

- No change in interaction with other pets
- Recognizes other pets but slightly decreased frequency of interaction
- Recognizes other pets but greatly decreased frequency of interaction
- Withdrawal but recognizes other pets
- Does not recognize other pets
- No other pets or animal companions in house or social environment

9. Changes in sleep-wake cycle

- No change in sleep patterns
- Sleeps more during the day
- Some changes, awakens at night and sleeps more during the day
- Much change, profoundly erratic nocturnal pattern and irregular daytime pattern
- Sleeps virtually all day, awake occasionally at night
- Sleeps almost around the clock

Important facts about senior testing

As your pet ages their organs gradually deteriorate and may lose their ability to function properly. Senior testing promotes early detection and treatment of disease so that we can maintain a healthy pet during their senior years. Detecting diseases early can often give us more effective and less costly

treatment options. Senior testing also assists in establishing normal baselines values for your pet, creating a point of reference for the future.

Is my pet a senior?

Most pets are considered senior by 7 years or older and, depending on their breed, can be considered a senior even earlier. Many problems are common to senior pets (like heart or kidney failure) and may not present symptoms until your pet becomes very ill. A comprehensive senior examination helps you and your veterinarian identify problems early enough to better address senior health concerns.

What is senior testing?

Your pet's comprehensive senior checkup includes:

- Physical examination. This helps your veterinarian to assess all body systems to check for abnormalities
- Lab Work: Helps to measure various substances in the blood and urine to diagnose metabolic diseases such as diabetes, and assesses liver and kidney function.
- Thyroid Screening: Helps to screen for thyroid disease, which is a very common ailment in older pets.
- Blood pressure measurement: Enables our team to check for hypertension. Just as in humans, high blood pressure in pets can lead to kidney problems, blindness, and other complications.
- Radiographs (x-rays): Included in the comprehensive senior examination. Generally, we perform chest radiographs to assess the heart and lungs. However, your veterinarian may decide that a different set of radiographs would be more important for your pet. For example, abdominal radiographs may be needed to assess the liver and kidneys.
- Electrocardiogram: Determines whether cardiac rate and rhythm are normal; aids in early detection of arrhythmias and other heart problems.
- Orthopedic Assessment: This assessment, along with your questionnaire regarding your pet at home, helps veterinarians to assess any lameness issues that the patient may have. Recommendations can then be made to keep your pet happy, comfortable, and healthy.

Call us to arrange a day for your pet to receive their comprehensive senior examination.