

## Senior Pet Health Month



September is Senior Pet Health Month! Did you know that your pet is considered a senior at age 7 or 8? Our senior pets have given us so much love and joy over the years! We can return the love through understanding and caring for their changing needs.

### Common Senior Pet Conditions

- Arthritis
- Cancer
- Cognitive disorders
- Intestinal problems
- Deafness
- Dental disease
- [Diabetes](#) mellitus
- Kidney disease
- Liver disease
- Vision problems

### Improving Senior Pet Health

- **Bi-Annual Exams:** Your senior pet should be examined by a veterinarian at least every 6 months. This will help highlight any changes in your pet's health. Early detection of any problems or diseases can increase options and effectiveness of treatment, ease discomfort and reduce the cost associated with advanced disease.
- **Lab work:** Yearly blood and urine tests allow your veterinarian to establish trends in your pet's health and can serve as a diagnostic tool in case a problem is detected.
- **Home monitoring:** You know your pet best and have the opportunity to observe any changes in your pet's health. If you notice any changes in health or behavior, notify your veterinarian as soon as possible.

CAT YEARS	HUMAN YEARS
7	54
10	63
15	78
20	97

  

DOG YEARS	HUMAN YEARS (small to very large dogs)*
7	44 to 56
10	56 to 78
15	76 to 115
20	96 to 120

Age: Estimated Human Equivalents for Older Pets  
\*Small: 0-20 lbs; Medium: 21-50 lbs; Large: 51-90 lbs; Very large: >90 lbs



- **Comfort Measures:** Be sure that your pet is kept in warm and dry conditions. Consider elevating food and water dishes, especially for larger breed dogs. Provide comfortable bedding. Be mindful of stairs or other obstacles that may become more difficult for your senior pet to navigate.
  - Spend some extra time: sometimes senior pets aren't as good at seeking attention once were, but the sure do need and love the attention! Taking some extra time to love on your senior pet can help improve the health and well-being of both you and your pet!