

# PREPARING AND CARING FOR YOUR PET'S SENIOR YEARS

Senior pets are the best!

They know you well, you know them well, they are smart and seasoned and worth their weight in gold. They are also worth extra special care to keep them healthy and happy for as long as possible. The age your pet hits "senior status" varies by breed, weight, size and veterinary care.

Old age is not a disease! However, some medical problems take their greatest toll as dogs and cats reach the senior years. An aging pet's organs gradually deteriorate and may lose their ability to function properly. We use senior testing to promote early detection and treatment of disease, so we can maintain health and prevent illness during your pet's senior years. Early detection of disease often gives us more effective and less costly treatment options. In addition, senior testing helps to establish normal baseline values for your pet, creating a point of comparison for the future.

Today, new pharmaceuticals, better nutrition and preventative veterinary care are helping pets live longer than just a few decades ago. Although senior pets may not have the energy of youth, they still have plenty of love and companionship to offer. Make sure your pet's senior years are happy and healthy by providing the extra attention and veterinary care needed.

To help ensure your pet lives comfortably during the senior life stage, it is critical to work closely with your veterinarian and report any changes that occur in your pet's behavior or physical condition, no matter how subtle or insignificant you may think it is. Your veterinarian is there to help the transition of your pet into those twilight years with ease.

By sharing life and love with you, your pet has given you a priceless gift. Now that your pet has earned senior status, you have an opportunity to give something in return: the special love and care that can make the golden years long, healthy and happy!

