

What Every Senior Pet Veterinary Visit Should Include

A Comprehensive, Compassionate Approach to Senior Pet Care 



Senior pets deserve more than a quick once-over. A thorough, proactive visit helps us detect changes early, manage chronic conditions, and support quality of life for as long as possible.

A COMPLETE SENIOR PET VETERINARY VISIT SHOULD INCLUDE:



1 THOROUGH HISTORY & LIFESTYLE REVIEW

- Elicit subtle changes in appetite, thirst, mobility, behavior, sleep, and bathroom habits
- Ask about home environment, enrichment, and daily routine
- Review medications, supplements, and previous diagnostics

WHY IT MATTERS

Small changes are often the first signs of underlying disease or discomfort. We can't manage what we don't know.



2 COMPREHENSIVE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

- Full head-to-tail exam
- Include orthopedic and neurologic assessments
- Evaluate body condition, muscle mass, hydration, and oral health

WHY IT MATTERS

A complete exam helps detect pain, disease, and dysfunction that may not be obvious at home.



3 AGE-APPROPRIATE DIAGNOSTICS

- Baseline or annual bloodwork: CBC, chemistry, SDMA, electrolytes
- Urinalysis
- Blood pressure
- Consider thyroid testing, imaging, or other tests based on breed, history, and exam

WHY IT MATTERS

Early detection allows for earlier intervention and better outcomes—even when pets look "normal."



4 PAIN & COMFORT ASSESSMENT

- Use validated pain scales
- Assess mobility, stiffness, and response to movement
- Discuss current pain management and options if needed

WHY IT MATTERS

Pain is often under-recognized and under-treated in senior pets. Relief improves function and quality of life.



5 COGNITIVE ASSESSMENT

- Screen for signs of cognitive dysfunction (e.g., disorientation, changes in sleep-wake cycle, anxiety, house soiling)
- Discuss strategies to support brain health and quality of life

WHY IT MATTERS

Cognitive changes can significantly impact a pet's well-being. Early recognition allows us to provide support and interventions that help slow progression.



6 QUALITY OF LIFE DISCUSSION

- Use a structured tool (e.g., HHHHHMM scale)
- Explore priorities for your pet and their family
- Revisit goals of care and values

WHY IT MATTERS

These conversations build trust, guide decisions, and help families feel supported every step of the way.



7 PERSONALIZED CARE PLAN

- Tailor recommendations to your pet's age, health status, and life stage
- Include nutrition, exercise, enrichment, preventive care, and monitoring
- Schedule appropriate rechecks

WHY IT MATTERS

A plan gives families clarity and confidence—and helps your team deliver consistent, proactive care.



SENIOR CARE IS PARTNERSHIP CARE

We're not just treating disease—we're supporting pets and the people who love them. Every visit is an opportunity to make a difference. *Caring. Compassion. Complete Care.*



Thank you for trusting us with your pet—and for being a valued partner in your clients' and patients' journeys.