

Wellness Testing

YOUR PET'S ILLNESS WON'T ALWAYS BE OBVIOUS.

Frequently asked questions

My pet seems fine. Why should I schedule regular wellness visits?

- Looks can be deceiving. 10% of pets that appear healthy to owners and veterinarians during annual checkups are found to have hidden diseases.¹
- Many diseases show few, if any, signs during the initial stages of infection. When signs do become visible, often it is because infection has become serious.
- Just like with people, your cat's or dog's health will change as it ages. And because pets age faster than people, major health changes can happen fast.
- Wellness testing leads to the early detection of disease. With early detection and treatment, your pet has a better chance at a positive prognosis.

How do I know if my pet is at risk?

- Pets—especially cats—are great at keeping illnesses hidden from owners and veterinarians. Sometimes wellness testing is the only way to know for sure if your pet has been infected.
- Rather than testing when a pet appears sick, wellness visits are a proactive approach to maintaining your pet's good health. Focused on early detection, wellness testing is also essential to preventing serious disease.
- As your pet's age and excess weight increase, their risk for becoming ill also increases. Wellness testing establishes a baseline for your individual pet that can be used to monitor their health as they age.

What can I do to help?

- Schedule an annual wellness visit for your pet. Regular checkups can help your veterinarian detect disease, even if your pet shows no signs of being sick.
- Watch for changes in your pet's health. Tell your veterinarian immediately if you notice any changes in behavior or health, especially if you have a senior cat or dog.
- Help your pet live a healthy lifestyle. Nutrition and exercise are essential to your pet's well-being, so make sure they eat right and play often.

Reference:

1. Rehm M. Seeing double. *Vet Econ*. 2007;48(10):40-48

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Senior Care

HOW OLD IS YOUR PET, REALLY?

Your pet's risk of illness increases with age and excess weight. Use this table to determine the "true" age of your cat or dog:

age	feline		canine		
	weight (lb)				
	0-20	0-20	20-50	50-90	>90
1	7	7	7	8	9
2	13	13	14	16	18
3	20	20	21	24	26
4	26	26	27	31	34
5	33	33	34	38	41
6	40	40	42	45	49
7	44	44	47	50	56
8	48	48	51	55	64
9	52	52	56	61	71
10	56	56	60	66	78
11	60	60	65	72	86
12	64	64	69	77	93
13	68	68	74	82	101
14	72	72	78	88	108
15	76	76	83	93	115
16	80	80	87	99	123
17	84	84	92	104	131
18	88	88	96	109	139
19	92	92	101	115	
20	96	96	105	120	

Table courtesy of Fred L. Metzger, DVM, DABVP

COLOR KEY adult senior geriatric

Talk with your veterinarian about how you can help safeguard the health of your pet.