

An IMPORTANT MESSAGE for cat owners.

There are more than 90 million cats in the U.S., or about 20 percent more cats than dogs.¹ However, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association, cats are brought to the veterinarian only about half as often as dogs.² Some veterinarians believe cats hide illness better than dogs, and many times owners may not realize there is a problem.



- Behavioral changes can be early signs of illness in both cats and dogs. These changes are often less obvious in cats.
- Cat owners may not notice subtle changes in appetite, elimination or other behavior until an illness is advanced.
- The risk of cancer, periodontal disease, obesity, kidney disease, thyroid disease and diabetes increases with age in cats.

In addition to bringing your cat to the veterinarian twice a year for a wellness exam, pay close attention to changes in your pet's weight, food and water consumption, elimination, grooming and other behavior. Your ability to perceive and respond to subtle changes can make a big difference in the life and health of your cat.

"Cats are notorious for hiding signs of illness until they're almost at a crisis stage."

Gary D. Norsworthy, DVM, DABVP
Owner, Alamo Feline Health Center
San Antonio, TX

Wellness Exam Checklist

The most important health screenings
for dogs and cats

Adult dogs (1-6 years)

- Immunizations
- Parasite check
- Heartworm check
- Dental health
- Blood panel (CBC)
- Chemistry panel
- Urinalysis

Additional exams for senior dogs (7+ years)

- Osteoarthritis check
- Chest radiograph
- Thyroid check

Adult cats (1-6 years)

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- Blood panel (CBC)
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- Urinalysis

Additional exams for senior cats (7+ years)

- Osteoarthritis check
- Chest radiograph
- Thyroid check
- Blood pressure check

Call us today:

1. APPMA. 2005/2006 National Pet Owners Survey. Greenwich, CT, 2005.
2. AVMA 2002 U.S. Pet Ownership & Demographic Sourcebook



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**Pets
age faster
than
people.**



- Determine your pet's "real" age
- How to keep your pet healthy
- Important information for cat owners



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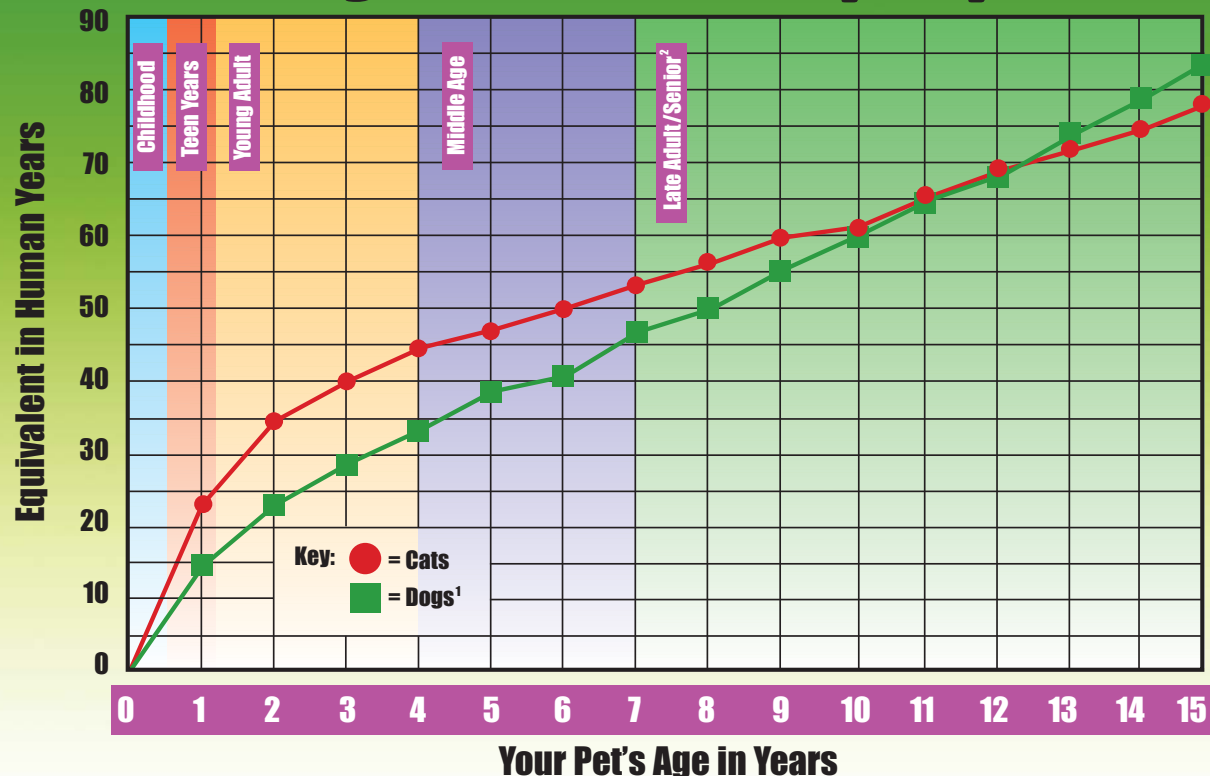
Does your pet act its age?

Pets age seven times faster, on average, than people. Most dogs and cats reach adulthood by age two. By age four, many pets are entering middle age. And by age seven, most dogs, particularly larger breeds, are entering their senior years.

Problems progress faster in pets.

- Because dogs and cats age so rapidly, major health changes can occur in a short amount of time.
- The risk of dental disease, heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease, arthritis and cancer all increase with age.
- Many of these diseases and conditions can worsen within a matter of weeks.
- Even pets that appear normal can have an underlying problem that may only be detected during an examination by your veterinarian.

Pets age faster than people.



¹ Based on a medium-sized dog weighing 21-50 lbs. Many other factors, including weight and breed, may influence the aging process. Ask your veterinarian for your pet's age in human years.

² Some breeds are considered "senior" as early as seven years of age.

Twice a year for life!

Because dogs and cats age so rapidly, they should receive a wellness exam from a veterinarian twice a year.

- Twice-a-year wellness exams can help your veterinarian diagnose, treat or, ideally, prevent health problems before they become life-threatening.
- Twice-a-year wellness exams provide an opportunity to discuss nutrition, behavior and other concerns with your veterinarian.
- Twice-a-year wellness exams can help your pet live a longer, healthier and happier life.

Help your best friend feel better at every age. Schedule your pet's six-month wellness exam today.



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