

Complete Physical Examination every 6 months- the cornerstone of preventative health care. This includes evaluation of all body systems, with particular attention to those areas commonly associated with senior conditions. This includes:

- an evaluation of overall body condition.
- the oral cavity for dental disease, tumors and other oral pathology,
- the eyes for normal aging changes as well as sign of visual problems and hypertension.
- the ears, for discharge, infections and other changes
- palpation of thyroid gland and lymph nodes.
- auscultation of heart and lungs for arrhythmias, murmurs, wheezes
- palpation of the abdominal organs for normalcy/abnormalcy
- examination of joints and gait for arthritis or other changes
- examination of the skin and associated glands for any abnormalities

Senior Screen – this fasting blood and urine screen includes a complete blood count, a serum chemistry panel (including enzymes, electrolytes, proteins and chemical elements, and a complete urinalysis.

Thyroid Screen-this additional blood test checks for thyroid activity as an overactive thyroid gland (hyperthyroidism) is a common endocrine (gland) problem in older cats. This test is recommended for cats over 10 and is suggested for cats less than ten who show weight loss or a thyroid nodule.

Fecal Examination- includes a direct smear and fecal floatation to screen for intestinal parasites and a gross examination for signs of digestive or absorption disorders.

Blood Pressure- Hypertension can be a hidden disease process in older cats and may cause kidney and heart disease as well as sudden blindness. In most cases, this is manageable with medications and early detection protects from end organ damage.

Senior Nutrition and Behavior- our older cats often have changing nutritional needs which can effect overall health as well as cognitive function (awareness and mental state). This will be an opportunity to discuss changes which may positively effect your cat’s health.

Vaccines- Contrary to common myths, the older cat needs to continue with vaccination for Feline Distemper and Respiratory viruses. The AAFP vaccine guidelines demonstrate a waning immune function in senior cats and increased need for protection from vaccines

Recommended Minimum Database depending on age.

	Complete Blood Count	Serum Chemistry	Urinalysis	Thyroid Level	Blood Pressure
Mature (7-10 yr.)	x	x	x	+/-	+/-
Senior (11-14 yr.)	x	x	x	x	x
Geriatric (15+ yr.)	x	x	x	x	x