

## Make An Appointment

- Call the Pet Health Center between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at 785.532.5690.
- Emergency services are available at the hospital 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



## We Can Help

If your senior pet exhibits any of the early warning signs listed on the previous page, schedule an appointment with our healthcare team. At the Pet Health Center, we will address your concerns about your senior pet. After thoroughly examining your pet, we will discuss our findings with you and recommend a diagnostic and treatment plan.

Our healthcare team at the Pet Health Center wants your pet's golden years to be special. Your pet has given you the priceless gift of companionship and unconditional love. We want to make certain your senior pet continues to enjoy life with you. Together, we can make a difference.

## Your Pet Health Center Team



Left to right: Dr. Jennifer Akers, Dr. Marjory Artzer, Dr. Susan Nelson, and Dr. Lindsey Blevins.

The professionals at the Veterinary Health Center are dedicated to:

- Honesty and respect in the veterinary-client-patient relationship
- Providing high quality individualized patient care in a compassionate environment
- The education of our students, our clients and ourselves.



**Veterinary Health Center**

AT KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

1800 Denison Ave.

Manhattan, KS 66506

Pet Health Center: 785.532.5690

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FOR PETS 7 YEARS OF AGE  
OR OLDER...



## SENIOR PET CARE PROGRAM



**Veterinary Health Center**

AT KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

TO DISCOVER. TO TEACH. TO HEAL.

## Senior Pet Care

Senior Pet Care is a proactive health management program designed to help ensure your aging pet a full and quality life. We can't keep your pet from aging, but we can manage effects of aging on your pet's health.

### When is my pet SENIOR?

The average dog or cat between 7 to 10 years of age and older qualifies as senior. Rate of aging increases with body size. The senior years of life are marked by a progressive decline in organ function, immunity, and physical and mental abilities. Pets age much faster than people do--about 5 to 7 years for every human year. This suggests health problems can progress 5 to 7 times faster in your pet.

**Human/Pet Age Analogy**  
Adult Size in Pounds

Pet Age	Feline		Canine			
	0-20	21-50	51-120	>120		
3 years	28	28	29	31	39	
4 years	32	33	34	38	49	
5 years	36	38	39	45	59	
6 years	40	42	44	52	69	
7 years	44	46	49	59	79	
8 years	48	50	54	66	89	
9 years	52	54	59	73	99	
10 years	56	58	64	80		
11 years	60	62	69	87		
12 years	64	66	74	94		
13 years	68	70	79			
14 years	72	74	84			
15 years	76	78	89			
16 years	80	82	94			
17 years	84	86				
18 years	88	90				
19 years	92	94				
20 years	96					

Age Analogy Chart: W. Fortney, R. Goldston

Legend:  
■ Adult  
■ Senior  
■ Geriatric

## Keeping Your Pet Healthy

*My senior pet seems healthy now. How can I keep him healthy?*

While some age-related diseases may not be preventable, early detection and intervention is the key to successful management. The clinicians at the Veterinary Health Center recommend senior pets receive a thorough physical examination every six months.



During these examinations, we will assess your pet's body condition and make dietary and exercise recommendations to help your pet maintain his ideal body weight.

In addition, we will carefully assess the health of your pet's teeth and gums as dental disease is a major health problem for senior pets. Dental disease can provide bacteria an entry way into your pet's bloodstream, which can lead to infection elsewhere in the body. Signs of dental disease include bad breath, plaque and tartar accumulation, red and swollen gums, difficulty eating and tooth loss.



## Early Warning Signs

*How do I know if my senior pet is sick?*

Observe your pet for these early warning signs of aging and age-related diseases:

- Change in appetite
- Weight loss or weight gain
- Loss of housetraining
- Increased thirst
- Increased urine output
- Difficulty rising, walking, or climbing stairs
- Confusion or disorientation
- Persistent cough
- New lumps or bumps
- Change in sleep patterns

These symptoms are commonly attributed to the aging process; however, they may indicate underlying age-related disease.

## Screening Tests

Specific screening tests may detect early, pre-symptom changes that may affect your senior pet's health. These tests are not invasive and do not typically require sedation.