

**Q:** How common is cancer in older pets?

**A:** In pets, the rate of cancer increases with age. Cancer is responsible for approximately half the deaths of pets over 10 years of age. Dogs get cancer at roughly the same rate as humans, while cats tend to have lower rates of cancer. A diagnosis of cancer may be based on X-rays, ultrasound, blood tests, physical appearance of a tumor or other physical signs. The ultimate test for cancer is through confirmation via a biopsy. Cancer treatments in pets are varied. Some examples of treatment include surgery, radiation,

chemotherapy and immunotherapy. Receiving senior wellness exams from your veterinarian every six months and close monitoring of your pet at home will likely allow for an early diagnosis. The success rate of cancer treatment is higher when diagnosed early.

**Q:** What can I do to keep my pet comfortable as he ages?

**A:** Senior pets don't regulate their body temperatures well and are much more susceptible to the effects of both cold and warm

temperatures. Keep senior pets warm and dry and don't leave them outdoors for extended periods of time. Most senior pets lose some mobility as they age. Be certain food and water bowls, as well as litter boxes for cats are easily accessible to your pet. Ramps can be used to allow the senior pet easier access to the car or prevent their need to traverse stairs. Many senior pets have difficulty walking on smooth flooring. Strategically placed rugs can give your pet more traction and allow for easier movement around the home.

## INDIVIDUAL VETERINARIAN PROFILES



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- **VETERINARY SCHOOL:**  
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