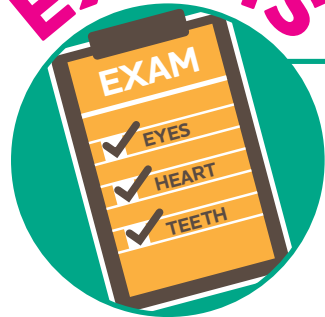


# ANNUAL CARE

for a healthy & happy lifetime

## EXAMS



**check** overall health and detect problems before they become severe or costly

## VACCINES



**protect** against common and fatal diseases based on your pet's age and lifestyle

## DENTAL & ORAL CARE



**prevents** bad breath and diseases that could become life-threatening

## LAB TESTS



**diagnose and prevent** sickness or injury in safe and non-invasive ways

## PARASITE PREVENTION

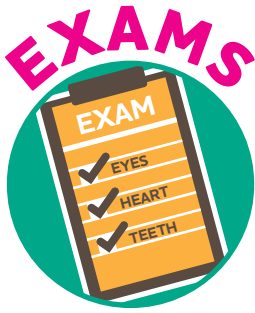


**treats and protects** against deadly heartworms, parasites, and flea/tick infestations

## NUTRITION



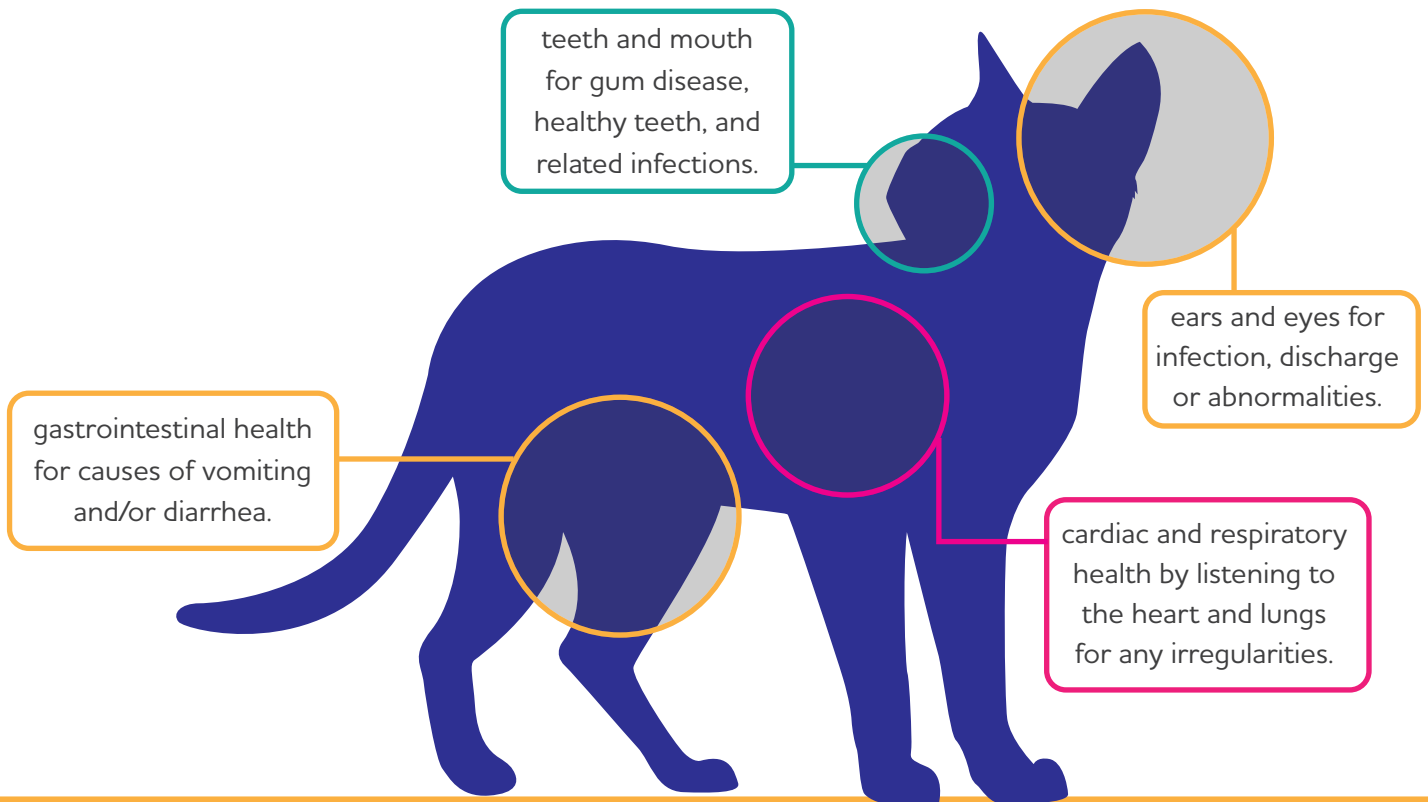
**ensures** your pet gets the balanced diet it needs and maintains a healthy weight



Cats are very good at masking their pain. Bringing your cat to the veterinarian for a physical exam every year is the smartest and easiest way to detect illnesses or diseases, especially before they become severe or costly.

## YOUR VETERINARIAN WILL CHECK...

- muscular and skeletal health by feeling for healthy muscle mass and joint pain.
- neurologic system check - it could indicate birth defects in younger cats, and cognitive issues in older cats.
- appropriate weight and lifestyle for your cat's age.
- lymph nodes - swollen nodes can indicate a wound, virus, infection or some other illness.
- vital signs (temperature, pulse and respiration) - an abnormal reading could indicate illness.
- skin and coat condition for growths, infection wounds and overall skin health.



## BRING YOUR CAT TO THE VETERINARIAN EVERY YEAR FOR A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH AND PEACE OF MIND

Your cat can't tell us what's wrong. But routine physical exams can help your veterinarian detect any problems or diseases you might not have otherwise picked up on, including **heart murmurs, tumors, enlarged organs, cataracts, ear infections, ear mites, dental and gum disease, skin issues and allergies.**



Vaccines protect against common diseases that your cat may become exposed to. We recommend annual exams, so your veterinarian can develop tailored vaccine recommendations for your cat based on age, medical history and lifestyle.

### RABIES

The rabies vaccine is required by law and protects against the fatal illness. Rabies can be transmitted to other pets and people through the bite of an infected animal.

### DISTEMPER (FVRCP)

This combination vaccine protects against viruses that cause life-threatening respiratory and gastrointestinal issues.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Vaccines have about a 95% success rate for preventing infections and fatal diseases.

### Lifestyle Vaccine

*This is given to all outdoor cats, including those who go out occasionally - even if it's just on an open porch.*

### FELINE LEUKEMIA

This vaccine protects against the contagious and often fatal disease, which is easily spread between cats.

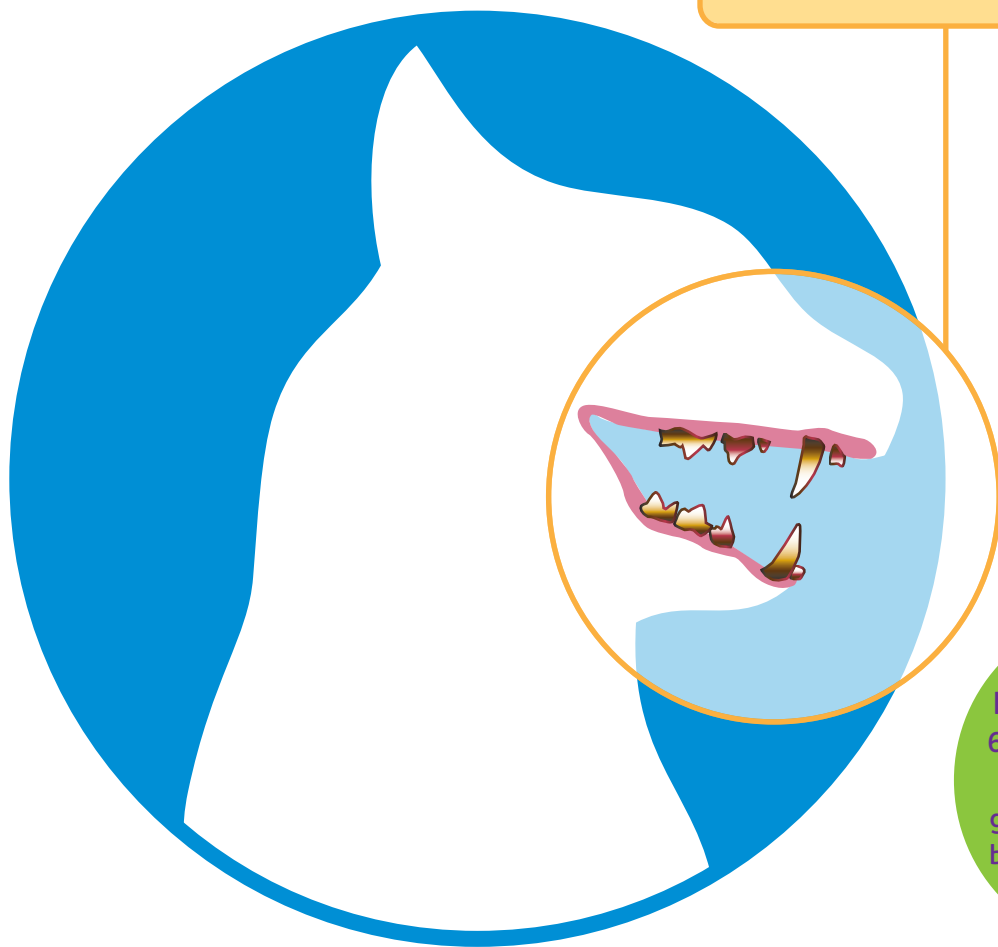
Vaccines are the key to a long and healthy life.  
Your veterinarian will suggest the best vaccines for your cat.



Oral disease is the most frequently diagnosed health problem for pets. Without proper preventive or home care, plaque and tartar can build up, which may cause oral infections, bad breath, infected gum tissues (gingivitis) or even bone loss (periodontitis).

Periodontal disease affects the tissue and structures supporting the teeth. It causes red, swollen and tender gums, receding gums, bleeding, pain, bad breath and, if left untreated, can lead to tooth loss.

**The heart, liver, and kidneys may also be affected, which can lead to other serious health problems.**



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
60% of dental disease is hidden below the gum line and can only be found with x-rays.

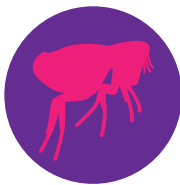
Cats are good at masking their pain. Although their teeth may look healthy, significant disease could be hidden below the gum line. Brush your cat's teeth regularly and check with your veterinarian about screenings, cleanings and products available to help keep those pearly whites clean.



Prevention is the best approach in protecting your cat against deadly heartworms, intestinal parasites, and flea and tick infestations. Your veterinarian will help you find the product that is right for your cat based on his or her needs.

## EXTERNAL PARASITES

are assessed visually by your veterinarian.



### FLEAS

Fleas thrive when the weather is warm and humid. Indoor and outdoor cats are susceptible to flea infestations. Beyond the skin irritation and discomfort, flea infestations can also cause deadly infections, flea-allergy dermatitis (OUCH!) and the transmission of tapeworm parasites if ingested.



### TICKS

Ticks can spread serious infectious diseases such as Lyme, Ehrlichiosis and Cytauxzoon to pets and people. Inspect your cat for ticks, large and small, especially if they go outside in a wooded or grassy area.

## INTERNAL PARASITES

are assessed by blood tests and fecal exams.



### INTESTINAL PARASITES

Roundworm, hookworm, tapeworm, Coccidia, Giardia, Tritrichomonas and Cryptosporidium are all common in cats. Many of these parasites can be transmitted to you and your family if your pet becomes infected.



### HEARTWORM

Mosquitoes can spread heartworm, a harmful disease that affects cats. As its name implies, heartworm lives in the blood of a cat's heart and blood vessels.

Life is better for your cat and family without parasites. Let us help you choose your flea, tick, heartworm and intestinal parasite preventatives today!



Since cats are very good at masking their pain, lab tests are recommended yearly. They offer safe and non-invasive ways to diagnose and prevent sickness or injuries that a physical exam cannot detect.

### **BLOOD SCREENING**

A blood screening checks for anemia, parasites, infections, organ function and sugar levels. It is important to get a blood test annually for your cat, to help your veterinarian establish a benchmark for normal values and easily see any changes that may point to problems.

### **BLOOD PRESSURE TESTING**

Senior cats are tested for hypertension, or high blood pressure, annually or biannually with their regular examination. Hypertension may occur as a secondary disease to another illness and is commonly seen in older cats. However, it can affect a cat at any age and cause blindness and damage to the eyes, heart, brain and kidneys. A new heart murmur or alterations in your cat's eyes during a routine exam may prompt your veterinarian to take a blood pressure reading.

### **URINALYSIS**

This test has the ability to screen for diabetes, urinary tract infections, bladder/kidney stones, as well as dehydration and early kidney disease.

### **INTESTINAL PARASITE CHECK**

Using a stool sample, your veterinarian can check to see if your cat has parasites. Many parasites can be passed on to humans, so it is important to complete this screening annually, especially if your cat has any symptoms including upset stomach, loss of appetite, and weight loss.

### **COMBINATION TEST**

A combination test checks for heartworm, Feline Leukemia Virus (FELV) and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV). FELV and FIV are serious diseases that weaken the immune system, making cats susceptible to a variety of infections and other diseases. FELV is spread through casual contact, and FIV is transmitted primarily through bite wounds. They can also be transferred to cats by their mothers. Any new pets, or sick/stray cats entering a household, should be tested.

Routine testing can add years to your cat's life.  
Your veterinarian will recommend lab tests appropriate  
for your cat based on age and lifestyle.



Just like humans, an animal's diet directly affects its overall health and well-being. Allowing your cat to overeat, or to consume the wrong foods, may lead to a wide variety of ailments including obesity, diabetes and arthritis.

### PROPER NUTRITION

Although we think of our cats as family members, they shouldn't be allowed to eat like us. Maintaining a proper diet will help keep your pet at a healthy weight. Be sure not to overfeed, and that you are providing a diet tailored to your cat's age, weight and medical history.

### COMMON FOODS TO AVOID

Think twice about feeding your cat table scraps. Common foods such as **chocolate, onions and garlic** could be dangerous to cats. Some non-food items like lily plants and antifreeze are also toxic. Check with your veterinarian if your cat has ingested anything questionable.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Over 50% of cats  
in the U.S. are  
obese or overweight.

### GROWTH DIET

Growing kittens need more nutrient-dense food than adults. Ask your veterinarian which food is right for this stage of life. Cats switch to an adult diet right after being spayed or neutered, no matter what the age, to decrease the likelihood of obesity and related conditions.

### ADULT DIET

Selecting an adult cat food that will keep your pet healthy and energetic starts with knowing your pet's lifestyle. Talk to your veterinarian about these issues to help guide you in choosing the best food for your pet.

### SENIOR DIET

Your senior cat may need a different amount of calories than a healthy adult, along with differing protein and fiber content, depending on body condition as he or she ages. Many older pets may continue eating the food they always have – just a little less to compensate for not being as active. Check with your veterinarian which food and amount is best for your cat.

Every cat ages differently. Your veterinarian can help you determine the best diet for your cat's needs.



Spaying or neutering can protect your cat from serious health and behavioral problems later in life. It also helps control the stray cat population.

## SPAYING OR NEUTERING REDUCES THE RISK OF...

### UTERINE DISEASE

Known as a pyometra, this is a potentially life-threatening condition which can be very expensive to treat. It is 100% preventable if your cat is spayed.

### MAMMARY TUMORS (BREAST CANCER)

Over one-half of all mammary tumors are malignant and can spread to other areas of the body. Early spaying, prior to your cat beginning her heat cycles, significantly reduces the incidence of tumor formation.

### TESTICULAR CANCER

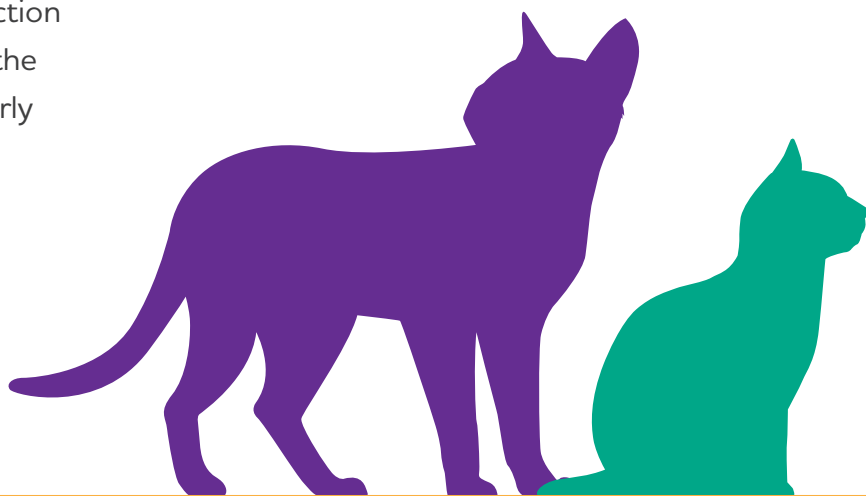
This cancer, as well as prostatitis (an infection causing malignant or benign swelling of the prostate), can be greatly reduced with early neutering.

### BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS

Unwanted behaviors such as dominance aggression, marking territory and wandering can be avoided with spaying or neutering.

### OVERPOPULATION

There are more kittens in shelters than there are people willing to provide them with love and care. Sadly, many are euthanized. Spaying or neutering can help reduce the number of cats in need of homes.



Spayed and neutered cats live healthier and longer lives!  
Consider the benefits to your cat and the community, and ask us when is the best time to spay or neuter your cat.





Make your cat's wellbeing a priority. See your veterinarian regularly and follow these tips to keep your pet happy and healthy.

### **NUTRITION**

Your veterinarian will give you a recommendation for a high quality and nutritious diet for your cat, and advise you on how much and how often to feed him or her.

### **IDENTIFICATION**

Microchipping is a safe and permanent identification option to ensure your cat's return should he or she get lost. Ask us about the process and get your pet protected.

### **SAFETY**

Keep your cat indoors to protect him or her from common hazards such as cars, other animals, and diseases like Feline Leukemia Virus and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus.

### **DENTAL AND ORAL HEALTH**

Brush your cat's teeth regularly and check with your veterinarian about professional cleanings as well as dental treats and products available to help prevent bad breath, gingivitis, and underlying disease. Although your cat's teeth may look healthy, significant disease could be hidden below the gum line.

### **EXERCISE**

Be sure to spend at least 15 minutes a day playing with your cat to keep him or her active and at a healthy weight.

### **LITTER BOX TRAINING**

Place your kitten in the box after a meal or whenever it appears he or she needs to go. Be sure to scoop out solids twice daily and empty it out completely once a week. The number of boxes in your household should be the total of number of cats plus one.

### **GROOMING**

Frequent brushing keeps your cat's coat clean and reduces the occurrence of shedding, matting and hairballs. Your cat may need professional groomings if he/she has an unmanageable coat or trouble self-grooming.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT**

Entertain your cat's natural instincts by using toys that mimic prey and encourage him or her to jump, run and hunt. Cats also need a vertical space within the home – furniture like a cat tree or a raised perch helps to keep them feeling safe.

## **BE YOUR CAT'S GUARDIAN ANGEL**

Call us if your cat experiences vomiting, diarrhea, poor appetite, lethargy, trouble breathing, excessive drinking or urinating, wheezing or coughing, pale gums, discharge from nose, swollen eye or discharge, limping, and/or difficulty passing urine or stool as these may be signs of illness.



Every cat is unique, and the start of each stage of life calls for different home and veterinary care. Check with your veterinarian to establish a proactive wellness plan to keep your pet happy and healthy throughout its life.

## ANNUAL WELLNESS

**Kittens** must receive a series of properly staged vaccines and physical exams. During these exams, your veterinarian may also recommend parasite preventatives or lab tests.

**Adult** cats will need to continue visiting the veterinarian annually for physical exams, recommended vaccines and routine testing.

**Senior** cats can develop similar problems seen in older people, including heart disease, kidney disease, diabetes and arthritis. Your veterinarian may recommend biannual visits to ensure your pet's quality of life.

## SPAY/NEUTER

Females spayed before their first heat cycle will be less likely to get uterine infections, ovarian cancer and breast cancer. Males neutered at any age will be less likely to get prostate disease. Spaying or neutering also helps prevent behavioral problems like urine marking and escaping. Talk to your veterinarian about spaying or neutering your cat.

## NUTRITION

Cats require different types of food to support each life stage. Growing **kittens** need more nutrient-dense food than adults while **adult cats** need food that will keep them healthy and energetic. Switching to adult food right after spaying or neutering has been shown to decrease the likelihood of obesity and related conditions. Your **senior cat** may need a different amount of calories and protein depending on body condition as he or she ages. Talk to your veterinarian to determine what's appropriate for your cat.

## EXERCISE

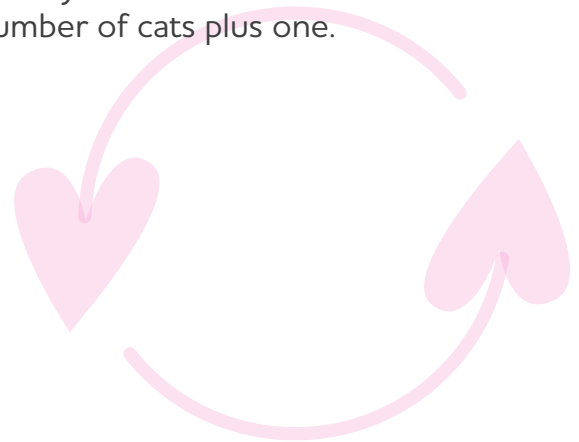
Keep your **adult cat** fit by using toys that encourage him or her to run and jump. Be sure to give your cat at least 15 minutes of playtime a day.

Weight management of your **senior cat** is extremely important to ensure that he or she is at an ideal body weight and able to move around comfortably.

## TRAINING

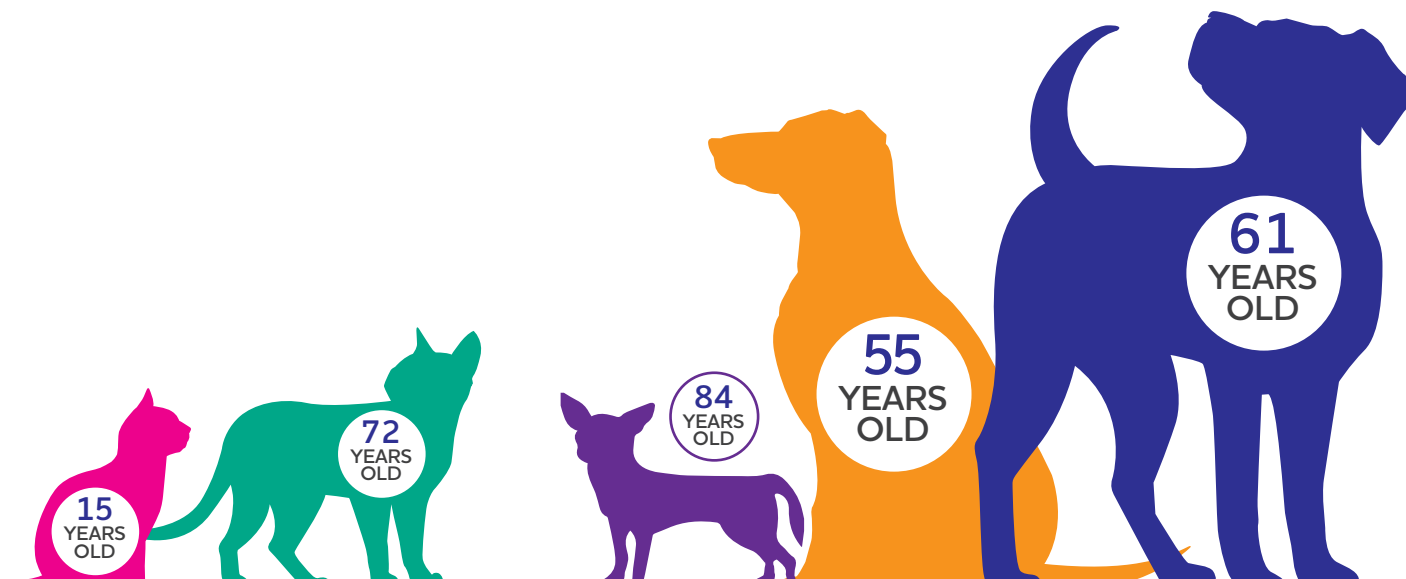
Behavioral issues are a major cause of pet abandonment. Begin training your **kitten** right away to prevent bad habits and establish good ones.

All cats need a litter box, which should be in a quiet, accessible room. Place your **kitten** in the box after a meal or whenever it appears he or she needs to go. Be sure to scoop out solids twice daily and empty it out completely once a week. The number of boxes in your household should be the total of number of cats plus one.





Animals age at a faster rate than humans do, and your pet's health needs will evolve over time. Use this chart to figure out your pet's age in human years, and check with your veterinarian to establish a wellness plan specific to your young, adult or senior pet.



CAT			SMALL DOG		MEDIUM DOG		LARGE DOG	
	AGE	HUMAN AGE	AGE	HUMAN AGE	AGE	HUMAN AGE	AGE	HUMAN AGE
PUPPY/KITTEN	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	12
	2	24	2	24	2	25	2	19
	3	28	3	28	3	30	3	24
ADULT	4	32	4	32	4	35	4	33
	5	36	5	36	5	40	5	40
	6	40	6	40	6	45	6	47
	7	44	7	44	7	50	7	54
SENIOR	8	48	8	48	8	55	8	61
	9	52	9	52	9	60	9	68
	10	56	10	56	10	65	10	75
	11	60	11	60	11	70	11	82
	12	64	12	64	12	75	12	89
	13	68	13	68	13	80	13	96
	14	72	14	72	14	85		
	15	76	15	76	15	90		
	16	80	16	80	16	95		
	17	84	17	84	17	100		
	18	88	18	88				
	19	92	19	92				
	20	96	20	96				