

How Old is Your Pet?

Dogs and cats age more rapidly than humans do, with larger dogs aging quicker than cats and smaller dogs.

This chart can give you a better idea of your pet's actual age in human years.

Your Pet's Age	Approximate Pet Age Equivalence in Human Years			
	Cats / Toy dogs	22-49 lb dogs	50-84 lb dogs	> 85 lb dogs
1 yr old	7	7	8	9
2 yrs old	13	14	16	18
3 yrs old	20	21	24	26
4 yrs old	26	27	31	34
5 yrs old	33	34	38	41
6 yrs old	40	42	45	49
7 yrs old	44	47	50	56
8 yrs old	48	51	55	64
9 yrs old	52	56	61	71
10 yrs old	56	60	66	78
11 yrs old	60	65	72	86
12 yrs old	64	69	77	93
13 yrs old	68	74	82	101
14 yrs old	72	78	88	108
15 yrs old	76	83	93	115
16 yrs old	80	87	99	123



SENIOR PET WELLNESS

HOSPITAL HOURS
 Monday, Friday: 8am-5pm
 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday:
 8am-8pm
 Saturday: 8am-1pm
 Sunday: Closed for Appointments
Emergency 24 / 7

**29 Theodore Drive
 Westminster, MA 01473**
 Phone: (978) 874-4100
 Fax: (978) 668-5316
Emergency: (978) 407-1122



Phone: (978) 874-4100
Emergency: (978) 407-1122
www.wahpr.com

Wachusett Animal Hospital and Pet Retreat

Senior Wellness

YOUR SENIOR PET

Senior pets require more attention and screening because they are susceptible to many of the same ailments that humans develop with age:

- Kidney disease
- Liver disease
- Cancer
- Dental disease
- Cognitive dysfunction
- Arthritis
- Obesity
- Diabetes
- Cataracts
- Heart disease
- Hyperthyroidism (cats)
- Hypothyroidism (dogs)

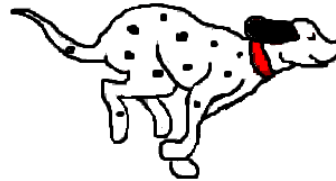


What can you do at home to help keep your companion healthy in his golden years?

MONITORING AT HOME

Monitor your pet for any of the following abnormalities, and contact your vet promptly if you notice any of these:

- Behavior changes
- Weight loss
- Skin masses
- Lameness, stiffness in the mornings
- Bad breath
- Changes in drinking and urination habits
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Decreased appetite
- Changes in breathing
- Changes in activity level



HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

Promoting a healthy lifestyle for your pet can go a long way towards helping to extend their life:

- Make sure your pet is getting plenty of exercise
- Keeping your pet at a healthy weight will help decrease the risk of arthritis and diabetes
- Brush their teeth for good dental health
- Keep poisons and other toxic materials out of reach

AT WACHUSETT ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Being attentive to your pet at home is an excellent first step, but it is also important to have your veterinarian check out your pets; cats and dogs tend to be very good at masking illness. The following are screening and preventative measures that should be performed on a regular basis, all of which are offered at the WAHPR:

- Complete physical examinations twice a year
- Yearly blood work (complete blood count, chemistry, urinalysis) to check for systemic problems including anemia, liver and kidney failure, and endocrine diseases. We have in-house CBC and chemistry machines for rapid results as needed.
- Thyroid levels should be checked in cats
- Up to date vaccines
- Year-round flea and tick preventatives
- Year-round heartworm prophylaxis and yearly testing
- Periodic dental cleanings as needed. Digital dental x-rays are available to better assess problematic teeth.
- If any problems are suspected, digital x-rays and ultrasounds of the chest and abdomen can be performed to provide instant results.



Diligently monitoring your pet along with regular veterinarian visits can lead to the early detection of disease when treatment may be more effective.

With these steps, your best friend can continue to enjoy their life with you well into their elder years.