

The Silver Whisker Program

Pets play a vital role in our lives. The unconditional love and companionship our pets provide help us better deal with the stress of our own busy lives and maybe even make us better people. Our Silver Whiskers Program was developed with this bond in mind. We would like to see you enjoy your pet, and your pet you, for as long as possible.

The Silver Whiskers Program gives your veterinarian valuable insight into your senior pet's health status. Most Silver Whiskers evaluations show older cats to be in excellent health, but if not, early detection of any problems is the first step in developing specific and effective therapies.

THE PHYSICAL EXAM

Patients enrolled in the Silver Whiskers Program receive a complete physical evaluation by the doctor which includes assessment of the following systems.

- Mental status
- Hydration
- Mucous membrane
- Lymph nodes
- Heart
- Skin
- Ears
- Muscles
- Body condition
- Oral cavity
- Teeth/gum
- Abdomen
- Lungs
- Eyes
- Nerves
- Joints

Close evaluation of these systems is vitally important because many medical diagnoses are made from findings on the physical exam.

ORGAN SYSTEMS AND METABOLIC SCREEN

Full blood chemistry panel

This helps us rule out major organ system and/or metabolic illnesses.

Thyroid hormone level

Excessive thyroid function is a common, treatable illness in older cats.

Complete blood cell count

This test checks for anemia and other blood cell problems.

Urinalysis

Urine evaluation gives us valuable information about the kidneys and urinary tract-a common "problem spot" for cats.

Urine culture

Bladder infections are common in older pets and pets don't always show outward signs of the infection.

Screen for urinary protein loss

This test can alert us to emerging problems in the kidneys as well as other systems of the body.

FOLLOW-UP/ADDITIONAL CARE VOUCHER

In some Silver Whisker cases there will be need for further evaluation, treatments or care. That's why we provide a \$50 voucher to each enrolled patient that can be used for up to 6 months. This can help defray costs for any additional care needed.

WHAT IS MY CAT'S "HUMAN AGE EQUIVALENT?"

Find your cat's human age equivalent by first locating his or her actual age in the left hand column and then follow that row across to the right. This will be the age of your cat if he or she were human.

Actual age in years:	Human Age Equivalent:
5 yrs	36 yrs
6 yrs	40 yrs
7 yrs	44 yrs
8 yrs	48 yrs
9 yrs	52 yrs
10 yrs	56 yrs
11 yrs	60 yrs
12 yrs	64 yrs
13 yrs	68 yrs
14 yrs	72 yrs
15 yrs	76 yrs
16 yrs	80 yrs
17 yrs	84 yrs
18 yrs	88 yrs
19 yrs	92 yrs
20 yrs	96 yrs

- Adult
- Senior



Any of the symptoms below may indicate that your pet needs medical attention:

- Difficulty climbing stairs
- Difficulty jumping up
- Increased stiffness or limping
- Increased thirst
- Increased urination
- Noticeable increase or decrease in weight
- Loss of house training
- Change in hair, coat, or skin
- New lumps or bumps
- Itching
- Bad breath, swollen gums
- Change in behavior
- Change in activity levels
- Just not the same: change in attitude

You know your pet the best and see him or her on a regular basis; your observations can truly help us to provide the best possible care for your senior pet.

The Silver Whiskers Program is not a medical insurance policy. Instead it is a package of tests and evaluations, recommended at least annually, to help us better evaluate your pet's health. In some cases we may need to recommend additional tests. These additional tests are not covered by the Silver Whiskers Program, but you may use your Well Senior program voucher for these services.



Redwood Veterinary Hospital's Well Senior SILVER WHISKER PROGRAM

For Cats



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