

CATS!

Better Vet Visits For Feline Patients!

Dental disease

It is estimated that 65% or more of cats age 3 and older have significant dental disease. Cats can have severe changes to the teeth under the gum line that aren't apparent without regular dental exams!

Metabolic disease

Older cats are increasingly prone to diabetes, hyperthyroidism, and kidney damage. Annual exams and bloodwork are important to help identify and address these aging changes as proactively as possible.

Arthritis

Cats with arthritis present very differently than dogs [or humans!]. Cats can develop primary arthritis much younger than our other species. As high as 90% of cats are estimated to have arthritic changes in at least one joint. Early screening, proactive care, and weight management can be vital in helping our feline patients to stay more comfortable and active.



Cats aren't just small dogs...

In case you hadn't noticed?!? Although their basic anatomy is similar, our feline patients have striking differences in metabolism, nutritional needs, and behavior when compared to the family dog. Many common OTC and even prescription products used in dogs are potentially harmful to cats. Cats are also more prone to hide symptoms of illness or discomfort. All of these differences mean that cats really need and deserve their own specialized veterinary care. Cats are living longer and longer lives (sometimes 18+ years!!) and all of our doctors and staff are firmly committed to helping you and your cat have the best quality of life possible!





Feline illness

Cats can present very differently than their canine counterparts. Many cats are more apt to hide or mask symptoms of injury or illness until the process is very advanced.

- Cats and dogs both may display changes in appetite, decreased activity levels, obvious gastrointestinal or respiratory signs.
- Many cats are less likely to show obvious outward signs—monitor your cat for increased hiding/reclusive behavior, changes in litterbox use, decreased grooming, increased shedding, or an unkempt appearance. Also watch out for changes in your cat's eyes—for instance, protrusion of the third eyelid or differences in pupil size.
- Cats with arthritis or mobility issues may not limp, vocalize, or hold up a paw. More commonly they may stop using the litterbox [due to discomfort getting in/out/posturing], decreased grooming due to pain, an overall decrease in activity levels, or increased irritable/grumpy behavior.

Set your cat up for success...reach out ahead of time!

So many cats HATE coming to the vet and it becomes a traumatic experience for the cat and humans alike. Be proactive in helping avoid these negative experiences!

- Acclimate your cat to their carrier. Keep it out and try putting your cat in it for a few minutes each day with some tasty treats!
- MANY cats experience anxiety and/or nausea when riding in the car. If your cat is upset during the car ride, please talk to us about. Medications like Cerenia [for nausea] and Gabapentin [for anxiety] are typically very safe and can easily be prescribed prior to your appointment. We may also be able to recommend some pheromone sprays or supplements.
- Cats that are fractious, aggressive, or difficult to handle may REQUIRE sedation at home prior to veterinary visits. Cat bites pose serious medical risks to our doctors and staff—we want to do everything we can to avoid human injury while still providing the best and least-stressful care possible for you and your cat.

