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## **Recommended Health Care of Senior Cats!**

Here at Fairmount Animal Hospital we customize your pet's vaccine schedule to what he/she needs without giving too many vaccines in one day.

### 8 Years+:

- Physical Examination given by a doctor.
  - For senior pets we recommend this be done every 6 months. Pets age more quickly than we do – for every one of our years out pet has ages 7 years – therefore more frequent health screening is recommended for senior pets to aid in early disease detection and intervention
- Geriatric Testing – includes geriatric blood screens (complete blood cell counts and chemistry profiles) sometimes a thyroid panel, urinalysis +/- culture and sensitivity, blood pressure measurements and a rectal exam. All testing will be discussed with your doctor and what fits you and your pet the best.
  - Breed specific testing will also be offered – this is for pets that can have breed specific problems
- Disease specific testing and long-term drug monitoring
- Vaccinations
  - FVRCP Vaccine – core vaccine given every 3 years
  - Rabies Vaccine – core vaccine given every year
  - Leukemia Vaccine – non-core vaccine done yearly for cats that go outdoors
- Feline leukemia/immunodeficiency test – for outdoor cats every 2 years
- Continue flea/tick control
- Strategic deworming – should be considered for pets that hunt, has fleas, household that have children or someone with a suppressed immune system.

### Other useful information:

- Cigarette's and second hand smoke can affect your pet's health just like humans. Please avoid smoking around your pet.
  - Diets play an important role in your cat's health. Here is a list of recommended diets that can be found at your local grocery store/pet store, we also recommend a senior formula
    - Science Diet, Iams, Eukanuba, Wellness, Royal Canin, Natural Balance, Evo/Innova, Blue Buffalo, Natures Balance, Purina one
      - If you are unsure how your pet's diet compares please ask your veterinarian!
    - Please always switch pet's diet gradually – this process should take about 2 weeks by slowly mixing in the old food with the new food.
    - We highly recommend some wet food in your cat's diet especially if your cat is a male. This helps prevent feline lower urinary tract disease and obstructions. You can also think about adding a water fountain to promote drinking.
  - Dental health plays an important role in the overall well-being of your cat. Please consider brushing your pet's teeth. Please see the handout about teeth brushing for easy step by step instructions.
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