

## GERIATRIC TESTS HELP MAINTAIN MY ANIMAL'S HEALTH!

Is your animal aging well? Just like us, when our animals become older, their organs can deteriorate or lose their ability to function. With modern methods, the veterinarian can be proactive and help you maintain your animal's good health.

A geriatric animal is predisposed to develop certain illnesses such as diabetes, kidney problems, cardiac conditions, cancer, hyperthyroidism and hypothyroidism.

The purpose of tests is to establish basic personal values for a healthy animal or to detect certain conditions at an early stage rather than wait for the clinical signs of a serious disease to manifest themselves. Recommendations from a geriatric assessment are the same as those for humans; however, keep in mind that one of your years is equal to 5 years for your animal. It is therefore normal that your pet's health status will change more rapidly. Such a health profile can also act as a pre-anesthetic assessment prior to teeth scaling or any other surgery procedure, thus diminishing the risks associated with general anesthetic. In addition, for those animals requiring long-term medication, these profiles can help adjust or change the medication if certain organs become affected or do not function as well.

Is my animal a candidate for a geriatric profile?

These profiles are recommended for all geriatric animals, i.e. more than seven years old, but also for all those suffering from one or many of the following symptoms:

- Weight loss or gain
- Increased water consumption
- Increase in urine quantity

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Convulsions
- Lethargy or intolerance to exercise
- Dry coat, dandruff, excessive hair loss
- Unusual behaviour
- Cough or difficulty breathing
- An animal having to be anesthetized (surgery, teeth scaling or other procedures)

A thorough geriatric health profile includes the following examinations:

- a physical examination
- a complete blood profile (biochemical, hematological, electrolytic)
- a thyroid profile
- a urine analysis
- a blood pressure test
- if necessary, it may also include an ultrasound teeth scaling or polishing.