

Pets age faster than people.

Age affects health, and pets progress through life stages more rapidly than people. See what stage of life your pet is in.

FELINE LIFE STAGES



- Kitten** From birth up to 1 year old
- Young adult** From 1 to 6 years old
- Mature adult** From 7 to 10 years old
- Senior** Over 10 years old

CANINE LIFE STAGES



- Puppy** From birth to cessation of rapid growth (up to 9 months, varying with breed and size)
- Young adult** From cessation of rapid growth to completion of physical and social maturation, which occurs in most dogs by 3 to 4 years of age
- Mature adult** From completion of physical and social maturation until the last 25% of estimated lifespan (breed and size dependent)
- Senior** From the last 25% of estimated lifespan through end of life.

Schedule your pet's next wellness visit with your veterinarian today!

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*SDMA is symmetric dimethylarginine. Visit [idexx.com/SDMAclaims](https://www.idexx.com/SDMAclaims) for further information on IDEXX SDMA testing claims and supporting scientific evidence.

References

1. Feline life stage definitions. American Animal Hospital Association. Accessed November 29, 2022. www.aaha.org/aaha-guidelines/life-stage-feline-2021/feline-life-stage-definitions
2. Canine life stage definitions. American Animal Hospital Association. Accessed November 29, 2022. www.aaha.org/aaha-guidelines/life-stage-canine-2019/canine-life-stage-definitions

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Wellness visits for your pet's health

Why is your pet's routine wellness visit so important?

Routine wellness visits are a great way to help your pet live a healthy life for as long as possible. These visits can also help us catch potential health issues earlier and may help you avoid additional costs associated with treatments if disease goes undetected.

A typical wellness visit might include:

A physical exam

We look for changes in your pet's teeth, weight, joints, skin, and ears. These changes may be signs of illness.

Diagnostic screening tests

We check your pet's internal health via diagnostic screening tests including blood, faecal, and urine tests. These results help us manage and track your pet's overall health.

A review of results

We look for changes in results from year to year. Changes can act as early warning signs of health problems.



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What we look at during a visit and why.

A wellness visit, including a physical exam and testing of blood, faecal, and urine samples, helps us evaluate your pet's health based on the following:



Heart and lungs

Infection or disease can make it difficult for your pet's heart and lungs to deliver enough oxygen-rich blood to the body.



Thyroid

If the thyroid glands aren't releasing the right amount of hormones, your pet's metabolism could be affected.



Liver

Your pet's liver may have trouble managing proteins, fat, processing, and waste. These problems could be caused by disease, a blockage, or even medication.



Blood cells

A complete blood count (CBC) tells us if your pet is fighting an infection or has some bleeding problems.



Pancreas and intestine

Problems with these digestive organs may be due to an inflamed pancreas and intestines, diabetes, or some types of cancers.



Urine

Urine tests tell us if your pet has evidence of dehydration, kidney disease, or diabetes.



Kidneys

The kidneys are essential organs supporting major body systems. SDMA can be an early indicator for diseases affecting the kidneys as well as disease processes affecting the kidneys.*



Faeces

Faecal antigen testing tells us if your pet has parasites. Other faecal tests may miss some of these common intestinal parasites, which can cause problems in people too.

Other

Physical changes in your pet's teeth, weight, joints, skin, and ears may be signs of illness.