

Catawba Animal Clinic

2241 India Hook Rd. Rock Hill, SC 29732

Recommendations For Your Senior Pet

Today, people live longer, healthier lives. In large part that is due to a better understanding of the importance of preventive health care and early diagnosis.

Similarly, the dogs and cats that make up such an important part of our lives are living longer, healthier, and happier lives. Part of the reason that pets are able to live longer now than a few years ago is the tremendous advances that have occurred in veterinary medicine including, nutrition, immunization, parasite control, and early disease detection. A greater knowledge of diseases, diagnostic procedures, and treatments is available to us today.

As dogs and cats age, they, like people have a greater risk for developing certain diseases and conditions; for example:

heart disease	loss of hearing	liver disease
kidney disease	loss of vision	benign/malignant tumors
arthritis	oral/dental disease	incontinence

In fact, pets age 5-7 years for every year of human life making early detection vital in controlling these diseases.

For this reason, we at Catawba Animal Clinic want to assist you in ensuring that your pet has the longest and best quality of life possible. This begins with a thorough physical examination, parasite prevention and any necessary immunizations annually. In addition, every year we strongly recommend a complete blood profile with blood chemistries and urinalysis, blood pressure measurement, and EKG screening. The blood profile can detect certain cancers, problems with the immune system or blood clotting. The chemistries and urinalysis can detect even very early signs of problems with the liver, kidney, pancreas, and adrenal glands to name a few organ systems. High blood pressure can also be a problem in dogs and especially cats, screening for this can help to avoid retinal problems/detachments and blood clots to name a few conditions. The EKG screening will help us to detect potential heart and rhythm problems.

The doctor will recommend a specific schedule for these procedures which is convenient and cost effective for you.

You too can be instrumental in helping to detect illness in your pet. Please notify us if you notice:

- increased thirst or urination
- coughing
- excessive panting
- less interaction with family
- circling
- change in appetite or weight
- persistent vocalization
- difficulty jumping or with stairs
- tremors or shaking
- loss of house training