

SENIOR PET CARE NEEDS

Nutrition – what, how much, treats
Weight management, Exercise/physical therapy
Arthritis, pain management, glucosamine
Supplements – joints, neurologic function, etc.
Kidney and liver diseases, Endocrine diseases, bloodwork
Oncology – what to watch for, common cancers
Ophthalmology – KCS, glaucoma, iris melanoma
Environmental accommodations – ramps, booties
Enrichment, behavior changes
Breed-specific problems
Medication & chronic disease monitoring

WELLNESS & PREVENTION

How could this problem have been prevented?
How could it have been diagnosed earlier?
What would have improved the work-up?
What would have improved the referring DVM's records?
What long term monitoring will be needed?
What medications require monitoring?
What about rehab, supplements or alternative Tx?
What would be the best long term diet for the pet?
Are there other disease problems that still need addressing?
Is the problem genetic? Environmental? Age-related?
What could you teach the client? The referring DVM?

WELLNESS TOPICS FOR CATS

Vaccinations, based on risk assessment
Sarcomas, vaccination side effects
FeLV, FIV, FIP
Nutrition – what, how much, treats
Parasites – HW, intestinal, fleas & ticks
Spay/neuter, declaw, anesthesia, pre-anesthetic testing
Tooth brushing, dental prophylaxis, dental diets
Toys & treats, training, enrichment
Ear cleaning, nail trimming, grooming
Microchipping, traveling with pets, ID tags
Urological diseases

WELLNESS EXAM QUESTIONS

Activities: outdoor cat? Hunting/camping/agility/swims, etc.
Risk for Bordetella? Lyme? FeLV, FIV? Tapeworms?
What food are you feeding & how much?
What treats & snacks do you give, & how many?
What is the routine for exercise & playtime?
What toys does your pet like? (Safe toys?)
Are you giving any supplements or herbs?
What preventative medications do you use?
Do you brush teeth? Clean ears? Trim nails?
Do you have children/immune comp. person in household?
Do you travel w/ pet? Moving soon? Getting another pet?

WELLNESS TOPICS FOR DOGS

Vaccinations, based on risk assessment
Bordetella risk – groomer, dog park, agility or training
Parasites – HW, intestinal, fleas & ticks
Nutrition – what, how much, treats
Behavior & training
Spay/neuter, anesthesia, pre-anesthetic testing
Tooth brushing, dental prophylaxis, dental diets
Toys & treats, training, enrichment
Ear cleaning, nail trimming, grooming
Microchipping, traveling with pets, ID tags
Breed specific diseases and testing

COMMUNICATION

Smile, shake hands, make eye contact, introduce yourself
Explain your role and the process
Engage – Empathize – Educate – Enlist – Empathize again
“I see that you feel _____ about _____.”
What teaching tool could you use?
What handout/website/video could you use?
Anxieties: What is the prognosis? Cause? Contagious?
Do you have a story/statistic or fact/feeling?
How would you feel if the pet were yours?
Record services offered and decisions made
What follow-up is needed?

BREED-SPECIFIC WELLNESS

DCM, HCM, SSS – annual ECG
Glomerulonephropathy, PKD – annual UPC
Hemangiosarcoma, lymphoma – wellness CBCs
Hemophilia, von Willebrand's – BBT before Sx
Hepatitis – annual chemistry panel
Hip dysplasia – hip x-rays w/ any anesthetic procedure
Hypertension – annual BP screening
KCS – annual STT
PSS, MVD – bile acids testing, esp. before anesthesia
Resp. dysplasia – DVM to intubate, discuss soft palate res.
Urolithiasis – annual U/A, special diet

SENIOR EXAM QUESTIONS

Any changes in exercise or activity? Give examples
Lameness/stiffness/difficulty w/ stairs/jumping/grooming
Any change in appetite? Thirst? Urination/defecation?
Wt. loss or gain? Look at wt. Hx, check for mm.atrophy
Behavior changes? Sleeping more? Confusion?
Changes in vision/hearing? Eyes look normal?
Lumps or bumps, or changes to lumps or bumps?
Cough/sneeze? Noisy breathing? Snoring?
Any vomiting? Diarrhea? Flatulence? Belching?
Dry skin, hair loss or thinning hair?

ESTIMATES (HEALTH CARE PLANS)

Short term prognosis

Long term prognosis

Risks and benefits of each option

Benefits and cost of any optional extra items

Other services coming due that could be included?

Aftercare such as rechecks and bandage changes

Pain medication, antibiotics, antinausea meds?

Special diet to go home? Syringe feeding?

Payment options such as CareCredit

Statement of caring, e.g. "I can see how much Max means to you"

CALLBACKS

Identify yourself first, then ask to speak to the pet's primary caregiver(s)

Ask how the pet is doing in general

Then you can ask specific, targeted questions, such as is he leaving the sutures alone, is he urinating/defecating OK

Make sure the client is able to give medications

Make sure they are giving pain meds even if they think the pet "doesn't seem painful."

Make sure the pet is eating the right food

Make sure the pet is eating a sufficient quantity of food

Ask if the client has any questions or concerns