

## **Twin Forks Clinic, Inc**

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### **Feline Senior Wellness Package**

As with people, our senior pets (age seven and above) encounter more health concerns than do their younger counterparts. The main objective of the senior wellness package is to detect any concerns or problems early so that treatment and preventative measures can be instituted early. By starting early, often the response and success to treatments is much improved. It is our goal to do the best for your pet and our senior wellness package offers several tools to accomplish this goal.

#### **Small Animal Exam**

As part of a comprehensive physical exam, the following is included: listening to your pets heart to check for murmurs or arrhythmias, checking your pets eyes, ears, nose, throat, mouth, joints, legs, paws, abdomen, gastrointestinal system, urinary system, coat and skin, weight, and body condition. This exam along with a good history is essential in evaluating your pet's wellness. Senior pets should be evaluated every 6 months. This six-month exam equates to a three-year exam in human years.

#### **Complete Blood Count and Serum Chemistry Analysis**

This blood profile aids in the detection of internal problems or conditions that may not be evident on physical exam alone. This workup screens for some cancers and diseases as well as establishing a baseline for future evaluations to monitor for changes before disease conditions get severe. These tests help evaluate kidney function, liver function, oxygen carrying capability, ability to fight infection, and metabolic conditions such as diabetes. All are essential clues into your pet's current health status.

#### **Thyroid Profile**

Hyperthyroidism is a serious condition with multi-organ involvement. This is a condition that is found commonly in the senior cat population. Common signs or consequences of hyperthyroidism in cats includes weight loss, hypertension, kidney failure due to hypertension, hyperactivity, vomiting, diarrhea, increased drinking, increased urination, and a poor hair coat or ill kempt appearance.

#### **Blood Pressure Measurement**

Hypertension (high blood pressure) is a serious condition in pets. It mostly occurs secondary to renal disease, diabetes, hyperthyroidism, and other medical conditions. If left undiagnosed or untreated, serious sequella can develop including blindness and organ failure.

#### **Electrocardiogram (ECG, or EKG)**

A tracing of the electrical activity of your pet's heart is a diagnostic tool used to identify abnormalities in rate, rhythm, heart size, and other conditions. These changes are often signifying abnormalities or disease in the respiratory and/or cardiovascular systems that may need treatment.

#### **Urinalysis**

By analyzing your pet's urine, we can detect abnormalities such as inflammation, infection, urinary crystals, abnormal acidity, and abnormal concentrating ability. Testing the urine, along with bloodwork allows us to fully evaluate kidney function.

#### **ERD Test (Early Renal Disease)**

Through the use of a small quantity of urine, this test evaluates for small quantities of protein (albumin) lost through the kidneys. There should be no albumin lost through the kidneys, and its presence leads us to an underlying cause. This could be inflammation, infection, and early kidney disease. These underlying causes are what should be dealt with in a timely manner. The ERD urine test allows for the earliest possible detection of kidney disease available to date.