

## SAVINGS

The cost of this complete program is \$165. This is a savings of more than 10% off the regular prices.

Additionally this program can be combined with your pet's annual wellness exam, vaccinations, and heartworm testing (for dogs) for additional savings.

A 10% discount is offered on any of the following procedures or diagnostic testing if done within 60 days of the program: dental cleaning, chest radiographs, pelvic radiographs for hip dysplasia screening, and EKG.

## HOW TO PREPARE FOR TESTING

Please call for an appointment requesting this program. Fasting is required for the blood samples so food needs to be withheld for 12 hours prior to testing. Water does not need to be withheld and should be available at all times for your pet.

Please refrain from giving your pet any table food, especially meat products, for at least 48 hours prior to testing as this may interfere with some results.

If you elect to have a dental cleaning for your pet it can be scheduled for a time after the results of the blood testing become available.

\*Information found in this brochure was taken in part from information provided by Abbott Animal Health & Meril.

*Professional care for your family pet.*

## SENIOR WELLNESS PROGRAM



### SUTTONS BAY ANIMAL HOSPITAL

1650 S. WEST BAY SHORE DR.  
PO BOX 807  
SUTTONS BAY, MI 49682

Phone: 231-271-4260

Fax: 231-271-4635

E-mail: [sbah@suttonsbayanimalhospital.com](mailto:sbah@suttonsbayanimalhospital.com)

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# IMPORTANCE OF A SENIOR WELLNESS PROGRAM

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Pets are living longer than ever before thanks to better pet foods, preventative health care, and advances in veterinary medicine. It is no longer unusual to see a 15 year old Golden Retriever or an 18 year old cat.



Just like people, as your pet ages, organ function may begin to deteriorate. The purpose of wellness testing is to detect these problems early and institute treatment. In many cases early treatment may extend the length

and quality of a pet's life.

Maintaining the health of your senior pet also consists of preventative dental care to help avert periodontal disease from affecting the heart, liver, and kidneys.

More than 85% of dogs and cats over four years old have some form of periodontal disease, an inflammatory condition in which bacteria attacks the gums, ligament, and bone tissues that surround and support the teeth. This bacteria not only can cause tooth loss and decay, but also can travel through the bloodstream and damage vital organs.

## WHO QUALIFIES?

The senior wellness program is recommended for all patients over seven years old for dogs and over nine years old for cats. Pets that are exhibiting signs of illness such as increased thirst, increased urination, vomiting, diarrhea, poor hair coat, seizures, or unusual behaviors are encouraged to participate.

Some pets may appear very healthy until problems have progressed to an advanced stage. This program is designed to find these problems before they cause signs of illness.

## WHAT IS INCLUDED?

- Blood Chemistry (29 panels)
- Thyroid Panel (3 levels)
- CBC (complete blood count)
- Urinalysis
- Fecal Flotation (for intestinal parasites)
- Complete physical exam by the doctor
- Prostate check for male dogs

## ADDITIONAL OPTIONS AVAILABLE

We are aware one of your biggest concerns for your senior pet may involve anesthesia. While we do not take the risks associated with anesthesia lightly, those risks should not prevent a pet from receiving needed care. The risks associated with periodontal disease are significant and are often higher than the risk of the anesthesia. There are some things that can be done to help lessen the already low risk of complications during anesthesia.

## GAS ANESTHETIC

Most of our routine procedures are performed using a gas anesthetic called Isoflurane. This is a very good anesthetic and is much safer than some of the older anesthetic agents.

However, Sevoflurane is a newer anesthetic, which has been used in human medicine since 1995. It has properties that allow the anesthesia to enter and exit the body very rapidly, which may be advantageous in higher risk patients. This speed allows the level of anesthesia to be adjusted quickly and may allow your pet to return to a normal awake-state sooner. It is more costly to use and therefore we do charge more if you elect to use it. Please let us know if you are interested in using this newer product.

## IV CATHETER AND FLUIDS

Placing an intravenous catheter (a tube directly into the vein) and giving fluids during an anesthetic procedure accomplishes several purposes. It allows for an easy access to the bloodstream in the unlikely event that your pet requires emergency medication during anesthesia.

It also helps to keep the blood pressure up and minimize dehydration. The fluids help to "flush" the system assisting to eliminate the medications we use for anesthesia more quickly. The fluids also help to protect the organs such as the liver and kidneys from some of the effects of the anesthetic procedure. This option is also provided at an additional cost.

