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The Physical Examination & Life-Stage Care

The annual physical examination is the cornerstone of your pet's health care. During this annual exam, your veterinarian will examine all of your pet's body systems and record the findings.

The following systems are assessed:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Attitude/Appearance | 9. Lymph Nodes |
| 2. Mouth, Teeth, and Gums | 10. Urogenital System |
| 3. Eyes | 11. Skin and Coat |
| 4. Ears | 12. Central Nervous System |
| 5. Cardiovascular System | 13. Pain Assessment |
| 6. Respiratory System | 14. Weight |
| 7. Gastrointestinal | 15. Nutrition |
| 8. Musculoskeletal | |

When we find an abnormality on our examination, we will give you a recommendation. Our job is to protect your pet and give you a plan to correct and prevent problems. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

We are often asked, how old is my pet in human years? The answer to this question helps us to guide your pet's health care. Our own health care is often dictated by the stage of life we are in. We suggest the same for your companion to provide better care throughout their life.

Canine					Feline	
Age in years	0-20lbs (human years)	20-50lbs (human years)	50-90lbs (human years)	>90lbs (human years)	Age in years	In human years
6	40	42	45	49	6	40
7	44	47	50	56	7	44
8	48	51	55	64	8	48
9	52	56	61	71	9	52
10	56	60	66	78	10	56
11	60	65	72	86	11	60
12	64	69	77	93	12	64
13	68	74	82	101	13	68
14	72	78	88	108	14	72
15	76	83	93	115	15	76
16	80	87	99	123	16	80
17	84	92	104	-	17	84
18	88	96	109	-	18	88
19	92	101	115	-	19	92
20	96	105	120	-	20	96

<i>Adult</i>
<i>Senior</i>
<i>Geriatric</i>

At Grace Animal Hospital, we recommend that all adult patients receive a complete physical examination at least once yearly. If your companion must undergo a dental or surgical procedure, a pre-surgical blood panel will be performed prior to the anesthesia.

As your pet ages, we may request the physical examination be done more frequently. Many changes can occur within the span of one year and we will help guide you on the frequency of visits. In most cases, we recommend twice yearly examinations for our senior and geriatric patients. Additionally, a senior panel (complete blood count, chemistry, thyroid function, and urinalysis) is recommended at least once yearly.