

# Brandon Veterinary Clinic



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## Geriatric Blood Work

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Owner's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Pet's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Species:  Dog  Cat  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_

Sex:  M  F  Spayed/Neutered

Our pets age more rapidly than we do, and because of this they may begin to suffer from old-age diseases earlier than we may think. Generally speaking, pets are considered to be geriatric patients at the age of 6 years. At Brandon Veterinary Clinic, our patients receive a thorough physical exam during their annual vaccination visit. However, even a thorough physical exam will not give the doctor all of the information necessary to ensure your geriatric pet is healthy and free of old-age diseases. We have a full array of lab equipment capable of assessing multiple organ systems in the body. It is strongly recommended that your geriatric pet have an analysis of his/her blood to assess the liver, kidney, and thyroid function of your pet. As you know, the liver and kidneys are two primary organs that, if not functioning properly, can be severely detrimental to your pet's health. Your pet could have issues with his/her kidneys and/or liver that could easily go unnoticed and undiagnosed without these important tests. When found early, liver and kidney disease can be treated or managed to prevent further damage and maintain your pet's optimal health.

Geriatric cats and dogs often have abnormal thyroid hormone levels that can affect their overall health. Cats tend to have hyperthyroidism (an excess of thyroid hormone) which causes an overall increase in metabolism, eventually leading to weight loss, vomiting, diarrhea, kidney disease, and hyperactivity or nervousness. Hyperthyroidism in cats is a treatable disease, and can be managed easily if found early. Dogs tend to have hypothyroidism (a lack of thyroid hormone) which causes skin and hair-coat problems, reproductive abnormalities, lethargy, depression, and obesity. These problems may be subtle or occur gradually and often go unnoticed. Hypothyroidism in the dog is treated very easily by simple thyroid supplementation.

Would you like your pet to have geriatric blood work?

YES

NO I do not want geriatric blood work. I understand that my pet may have organ disease or dysfunction that may go undiagnosed without testing.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of owner or representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
date