



The Doctors and Staff at Mt. Pleasant Animal Hospital strive to keep your pet healthy through all life stages. In addition to thorough physical exams and vaccinations, it is important to monitor internal organ function (kidneys, liver, etc.) and screen for common parasites. From baseline blood work in your pet's younger years to senior screening, we can help identify and address issues that may otherwise go undiagnosed and undetected. It is important to remember that pets age at a faster rate than humans do - a 10 year old pet is comparable to a person in their sixties or seventies!

Working with our new laboratory, we have created a comprehensive group of tests for our patients between the ages of 1 and 10. The **Young Canine Panel** will include a complete blood cell count, limited chemistry panel, fecal exam, heartworm test, and screening for endemic tick-borne diseases (Lyme Disease, Ehrlichia, and Anaplasma). These tests will help us establish specific baselines for your individual pet and identify diseases early, allowing for more effective treatment and management. Though we do not have a **Young Feline Panel**, per se, we can customize testing based upon your cat's individual lifestyle and risk factors.

As our patients reach 8 to 10 years of age (depending on species and breed), we begin referring to them as senior patients. This is a special group of patients that are often suffering from one or more chronic ailments. The **Senior Canine Panel** is tailored to these patients - complete blood cell count, full chemistry panel, fecal exam, heartworm test, thyroid level, urinalysis, and screening for endemic tick-borne diseases.

The **Senior Feline Panel** is very similar to the canine panel except for one very important test - the CardioPet proBNP. This test quantifies a hormone that is released by muscle cells of the heart when stretched or stressed. Heart disease in cats can be more difficult to diagnose with auscultation alone and this test can help us diagnose and monitor our feline cardiac patients.

Please do not hesitate to discuss any of these panels or tests with the Doctors or Technicians. We will be happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have. We look forward to seeing you at your next visit!

Dr. Sawdai, Dr. Hall, and Dr. Wendy