

## Why So Many Pets Live Longer Lives These Days!



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National statistics tell us that cats and dogs are living longer lives these days, and those that are brought to our facilities are no exception.

We believe the reasons for so many longer lives among our pets are obvious: Pet lovers are more knowledgeable about caring for their furry friends these days, and veterinary medicine and standards have improved so much in recent years that cats and dogs are often treated virtually at human quality care levels.

In our facilities, we have continued to add special features to our practice standards which help prepare pets for those comfortable golden years we want our pets to have.

These are some examples:

- Regular geriatric checkups are vital for pets as well as humans. We now have better methods and equipment to detect signs of disease in its early stages, just as we know more about minimizing potential problems.
- In sharp contrast to the days when many people thought cats and dogs didn't live long enough to develop dental problems, most pet lovers now know better. Since pets with serious dental problems such as bad teeth and diseased gums often refuse to eat or else eat only small amounts of good food, taking regular, good care of a pet's teeth will usually avoid that sort of problem.
- If started early enough, sound veterinary care can help ease or control heart and kidney problems in older pets. We do everything possible to detect early signs of heart disease, kidney problems or anything else which can interfere with your pet having a comfortable, happy life as it ages.
- As the percentage of humans who are overweight in this country has increased, the number of overweight pets – dogs in particular – has apparently continued to grow as well. We think we know why: Canines often follow the eating and exercise patterns of the humans with who they live. This is why nutritional counseling for pets has become a serious part of any modern practice, and fortunately, why specialized pet foods are now available by prescription to help deal with this weighty problem.

