

Behavior screen for older dogs and cats

Please complete this form to give our team important information about your pet.

1. Locomotory/ambulatory assessment (check one)

- a. No alterations or debilities noted
- b. Modest slowness associated with change from youth to adult
- c. Moderate slowness associated with geriatric aging
- d. Moderate slowness associated with geriatric aging plus alteration or debility in gait
- e. Moderate slowness associated with geriatric aging plus some loss of function (e.g., cannot climb stairs)
- f. Severe slowness associated with extreme loss of function, particularly on slick surfaces (may need to be carried)
- g. Severe slowness, extreme loss of function, and decreased willingness or interest in moving (spends most of time in bed)
- h. Paralyzed or refuses to move

2. Appetite assessment

(check all that apply)

- a. No alterations in appetite
- b. Change in ability to physically handle food
- c. Change in ability to retain food (vomits or regurgitates)
- d. Change in ability to find food
- e. Change in interest in food (may be olfactory)
- f. Change in rate of eating
- g. Change in completion of eating
- h. Change in timing of eating
- i. Change in preferred textures

3. Assessment of elimination function

(check one in each category)

a. Changes in frequency and "accidents"

- No change in frequency, no "accidents"
- Increased frequency, no "accidents"
- Decreased frequency, no "accidents"
- Increased frequency with "accidents"
- Decreased frequency with "accidents"
- No change in frequency, but "accidents"

b. Bladder control

- Leaks urine when asleep
- Leaks urine when awake
- Leaks urine when awake or asleep

- Full-stream, uncontrolled urination when asleep
- Full-stream, uncontrolled urination when awake
- Full-stream, uncontrolled urination when awake or asleep
- No leakage or uncontrolled urination, all urination controlled, but in inappropriate or undesirable location
- No change in urination control or behavior

c. Bowel control

- Defecates when asleep
- Defecates without apparent awareness
- Defecates when awake and aware of action, but in inappropriate or undesirable locations
- No changes in bowel control

4. Visual acuity: How well do you think the dog or cat sees? (check one)

- a. No change in visual acuity detected by behavior, appears to see as well as ever
- b. Some change in acuity not dependent on ambient light conditions.
- c. Some change in acuity dependent on ambient light conditions
- d. Extreme change in acuity not dependent on ambient light conditions
- e. Extreme change in acuity dependent on ambient light conditions
- f. Blind

5. Auditory acuity: How well do you think the dog or cat hears? (check one)

- a. No apparent change in auditory acuity
- b. Some hearing loss
- c. Extreme hearing loss
- d. Deaf

6. Play interactions: If the dog or cat plays with toys, which situation best describes that play? (check one)

- a. No change in play with toys
- b. Slightly decreased interest in toys
- c. Slightly decreased ability to play with toys
- d. Slightly decreased interest and ability to play with toys

- e. Extreme decreased interest in toys
- f. Extreme decreased ability to play with toys
- g. Extreme decreased interest and ability to play with toys

7. Interactions with people: Which situation best describes that interaction? (check one)

- a. No change in interaction with people
- b. Recognizes people but slightly decreased frequency of interaction
- c. Recognizes people but greatly decreased frequency of interaction
- d. Withdrawal but recognizes people
- e. Does not recognize people

8. Interactions with other pets:

Which situation best describes that interaction? (check one)

- a. No change in interaction with other pets
- b. Recognizes other pets but slightly decreased frequency of interaction
- c. Recognizes other pets but greatly decreased frequency of interaction
- d. Withdrawal but recognizes other pets
- e. Does not recognize other pets
- f. No other pets or animal companions in house or social environment

9. Changes in sleep-wake cycle

(check one)

- a. No changes in sleep patterns
- b. Sleeps more during the day
- c. Some change, awakens at night and sleeps more during the day
- d. Much change, profoundly erratic nocturnal pattern and irregular daytime pattern
- e. Sleeps virtually all day, awake occasionally at night
- f. Sleeps almost around the clock

Source: *Manual of Clinical Behavioral Medicine for Small Animals* by Karen Overall, to be published by Elsevier in 2008.