

TABLE 1

Diagnostic Tests and Recommended Frequencies for Senior Dogs and Cats

Diagnostic Test	Recommended Frequency	
	Canine	Feline
Fecal testing for parasites	1–4 times/yr, depending on use of preventive products and lifestyle.	1–2 times/yr, depending on health and lifestyle factors.
Tick-borne disease	Annually	N/A
Heartworm	Annually	Detailed information on heartworm testing is available in the American Heartworm Society guidelines. ¹
Comprehensive CBC (including cell morphology, differentials and pathologist review if necessary)	Every 6–12 mo.	
Chemistry (TP, albumin, ALT, glucose, BUN, creatinine, sodium, potassium, calcium, SDMA if available)	Every 6–12 mo.	
Urinalysis (USG, sediment, glucose, ketones, bilirubin, protein, occult blood)	Every 6–12 mo.	
Imaging	Imaging of a region of interest should be performed if clinically indicated. Breed-specific screening may be appropriate.	Imaging of a region of interest should be performed if clinically indicated.
Electrocardiogram	Perform an electrocardiogram annually in breeds with high risk of cardiac disease (e.g., boxers, Dobermans), or in other patients when clinically indicated or if an arrhythmic condition is suspected.	
Urine protein:creatinine ratio	If proteinuria is identified or persistent microalbuminuria is present.	
Thyroxine (T4)	Recommended annually.	Strongly recommended annually.
Blood pressure	Recommended annually.	Strongly recommended annually. Recommended every 6–12 mo in healthy geriatric cats.
Retroviral testing	N/A	Consider based on individual patient's risk.
NT-proBNP	Annually and to be strongly considered before an anesthetic event.	

¹ American Heartworm Society. Prevention, Diagnosis, and Management of Heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) Infection in Cats. American Heartworm Society, 2020. Available at https://d3ft8sckhnqim2.cloudfront.net/images/pdf/2020_AHS_Feline_Guidelines_Summary_11_12.pdf?1605556516

ALT: alanine aminotransferase

BUN: blood urea nitrogen

CBC: complete blood count

N/A: not applicable

NT-proBNP: N-terminal pro B-type natriuretic peptide

SDMA: symmetric dimethylarginine assay

TP: total protein

USG: urine specific gravity