

## Our Team...

**Dr. Patrick McKee** received his DVM from Oklahoma State University. He practiced in Charlotte for a year before moving to Hendersonville where he practiced emergency medicine prior to purchasing AVAH in 2010. The McKee's family includes a son, two daughters, four dogs & two horses.

Away from work, Doctor McKee enjoys exploring the mountains of North Carolina with his family as well as biking, camping, horseback riding, rafting, fishing, and photography.

**Dr. Jennifer McKee** received her DVM from Oklahoma State University. She is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, American Association of Equine Practitioners, and the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society. Dr. McKee is also the owner of Apple Valley Equine Mobile Veterinary Services.

In her free time she enjoys camping, kayaking, swimming and spending time with her husband, Dr. Patrick and their three children.



**Dr. Cassandra Lord** received her DVM from the University of Tennessee. After graduation, she completed an emergency focused internship in Chattanooga. Though she loved emergency medicine, she missed getting to know her clients and their pets.

Outside of work, she enjoys running and exploring the mountains with her husband and two children and relaxing at home with her two dogs and cat.



**Dr. Robin Howie** received her DVM from the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine. She completed her veterinary internship at Southwest Veterinary Center in Tucson, Arizona and moved to North Carolina in 2004. Her veterinary interests include small animal medicine, surgery and ophthalmology.

Dr. Howie brings over fifteen years of clinical & surgical experience to AVAH. Dr. Howie and her husband have three daughters and three rescue cats and a rescue dog. She loves time with her family and enjoys Pilates, baking and hiking.



**Dr. Naima White** received her DVM from the Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine. She started her 24 year veterinary career at the USDA. She is also a Fear Free certified veterinarian.

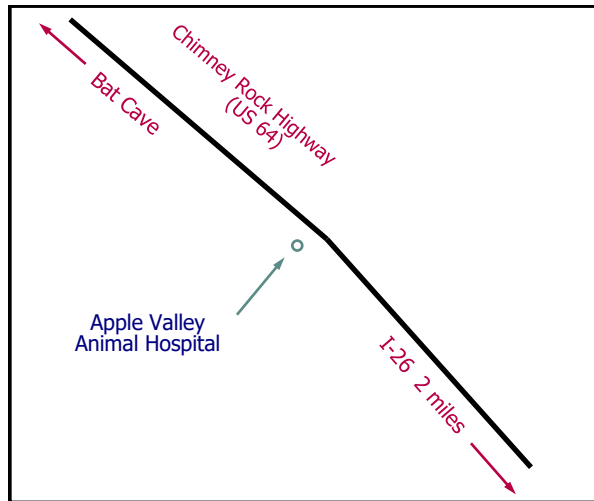
Dr. White has an array of companion animals including rescue horses, donkeys, llamas, goats, poultry and of course dogs & cats. She would be honored to meet your pets here at AVAH.

During her free time Dr. White enjoys spending time with her family at Lake Lure, riding horses with her daughter, & attending events at the Tryon Equestrian Center.

**Client Service:** Our Client Service Representatives assure the smooth flow of patients, records & information through the hospital. Camryn, Tiffany and Taylor are very knowledgeable and always happy to help with appointments & product information. They look forward to taking your calls and answering, or getting an answer, to your pet care questions.

**Nursing Staff:** Taylor, Marcos & Meghan, our Registered Veterinary Technicians, are responsible for administering the doctor's orders, maintaining medical histories and the care & comfort of our patients. Our technicians are required to attend continuing education annually. They're a great source of information and are always happy answer your questions. They are also quick with a treat and scratch behind the ear to make sure our patient's visits are a great experience.

## Directions...



## Apple Valley Animal Hospital

### YOUR OTHER FAMILY DOCTOR

3015 Chimney Rock Road  
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Phone: (828) 685-1650  
Fax: (828) 685-9774

Visit us at [www.AVvets.com](http://www.AVvets.com)



### Hours of operation:

Monday through Friday 7:30a to 6:00p  
Saturday 8:00a to 3:00p

Call 685-1650 to schedule an appointment.

# Your Senior Cat



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## Growing Older

Unfortunately, our pets age much faster than we do. A ten year old cat is the equivalent of a fifty-six year old human. Fortunately, advances in veterinary medicine are helping our pets live longer, healthier lives. That's great news because it means we can have our enthusiastic companions longer than ever before. Still, like humans, older cats are more likely to have health problems than younger pets. This chart will help you find your cat's age compared to a humans.

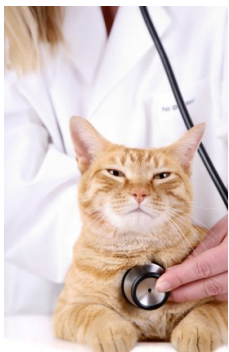
Because cats "age" more quickly than we do, it's important to catch problems as early as possible. The very best means of early detection is an informed, observant owner and regular veterinary examinations.

### Is your cat a senior?

Cats Age	Human Equivalent
1	15
2	24
3	28
4	32
5	36
6	40
7	44
8	48
9	52
10	56
11	60
12	64
13	68
14	72
15	76
16	80
17	84
18	88
19	92
20	96

### Early Warning Signs to Watch For:

- Changes in water consumption
- Change in urine production (especially an increase)
- Change if appetite
- Change in fur coat
- Lethargy or depression
- Changes in personality
- Staring into space
- Bumping into things
- Constipation
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Weight change
- Bad breath
- Lumps in or under the skin
- Difficulty climbing stairs
- Stiffness or reduced agility
- Noticeable vision decrease



- Persistent Cough
- Difficulty Chewing
- Excessive panting

## Common Conditions of the Senior Feline

### Periodontal Disease

Periodontal disease and broken, worn, or loose teeth cause pain and often lead to infections, kidney disease and heart conditions. Veterinary studies show proper dental care adds an average of two years to a cat's life.

### Obesity

As your pet's metabolism slows, weight gain can be a problem. Diets formulated for older pets provide for their specific nutritional needs. Obesity increases the risk of diabetes, spinal disc failure and arthritis.

### Endocrine Disease

Changes in adrenal, thyroid and pancreatic function are common in older cats. Monitoring these values can prevent heart, liver and kidney damage.

### Liver and Kidney Disease

Decreased function of these organs can lead to chemical imbalances, anemia, clotting disorders, increased urination and even personality changes.

### Heart Disease

Symptoms include fatigue, lethargy, coughing and difficulty breathing. Heart disease is serious, but medications can help reduce the impact on your pet.

### Arthritis

Affected joints are painful making your pet less active and enthusiastic. Effective supplements are available that can greatly reduce discomfort and increase quality of life.

### Cancer

Early detection is very important. Watch for lumps in or under the skin. The doctor will suggest tests for early detection based on your pet's breed.

**Effective new treatments are available to relieve many common senior ailments, providing a higher quality of life for your pet. As your cat reaches its senior years, early detection of illness or infirmity is even more important.**

## The AVAH Senior Exam

Ideally, senior cats should see the veterinarian twice a year for thorough examinations. This provides the best chance of catching illnesses and diseases early, reducing treatment expenses and greatly increasing the chance of a successful outcome.

### Our Senior Exam Package Includes:

**1. Physical Exam:** Our doctors perform complete examinations of the 12 body systems. During this exam they are also looking for physical signs of cancers, heart & lung disease, dental issues and joint problems.

**2. Ophthalmic Exam:** A full ophthalmic exam, including glaucoma testing, is included with each senior exam.

**3. Mobility/Pain Analysis:** Since many older cats experience pain or discomfort from arthritis and other conditions, every exam includes a mobility and pain analysis.



**Laboratory Testing:** Many breeds of cats are predisposed to specific conditions and illnesses. Our doctors will select tests specifically suited to your pet's breed and needs. Standard senior lab-work includes:

**4. Bloodwork:** CBC, Albumin, Alk Phos, ALT(SGPT), Amylase, Calcium, Cholesterol, Creatinine, Glucose, Inorganic Phosphate, Bilirubin, Protein, Urea Nitrogen, Electrolytes, and total thyroid hormone levels.

**5. Urinalysis:** Tests for early kidney disease, diabetes, and other systemic problems.

**6. Fecal Test:** Checks for internal parasites which can infect pets of all ages.

**7. Vaccines Review:** As required by law or recommended for your pet's age and exposure.

**8. Parasite Prevention Review:** The doctor will make recommendations based your pet's exposure & risk factors.

**9. Diet & Nutrition Counseling:** The doctor will discuss and make recommendations for the changing nutritional needs of your senior pet.

**10. Behavior Review:** Once considered a normal part of aging, many behavioral changes can be effectively treated or reversed.