



Blood Pressure in Felines 10 Years and Older

In order to provide better and more thorough health evaluations on our patients we recommend blood pressure measurement as part of all senior feline yearly health exams.

- Systemic hypertension (high blood pressure) is increasingly recognized as a cause of morbidity (death) in pet cats and usually represents a complication of other systemic diseases.
- Persistent elevation of blood pressure over 180mm Hg has been associated with ocular injury, including retinal damage: vascular disease, retinal detachments and retinal degeneration that may cause acute blindness.
- Elevations in systemic blood pressure has also been correlated with underlying heart disease, and in some cases, heart disease may regress with successful treatment of high blood pressure.
- Renal disease and hyperthyroidism are two common age related diseases we see in older cats. These diseases tend to have an insidious onset. Therefore, annual blood pressure screening in apparently healthy older cats is warranted.
- If the blood pressure is only measured in animals suspected of having complications secondary to hypertensive injury, the opportunity for early detection and intervention is lost.
- Cost is \$15 and process generally takes about 10 minutes.