

Our Staff...



Patrick McKee, DVM

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, three dogs & three 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.



Jennifer McKee, DVM

Dr. Jennifer McKee received her DVM from Oklahoma State University. Dr. McKee 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, Patrick McKee, DVM, and their three children, three horses and three dogs.

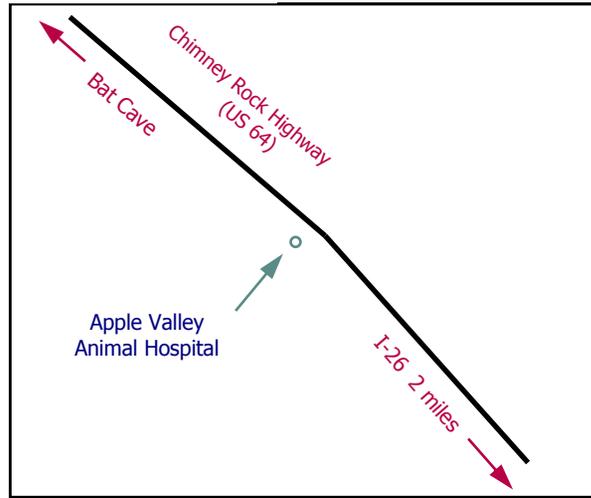
Reception Staff

Our reception staff assures the smooth flow of patients, records and information through the hospital. Teresa and Jane are very knowledgeable and always happy to help you with appointments and product information. Our staff look forward to taking your calls and answering, or getting an answer, to your pet care questions.

Nursing Staff

Dawn and Taylor, our Registered Veterinary Technicians, are responsible for administering the veterinarian's medical orders, maintaining medical histories and the care and comfort of our patients while they are with us. Our nursing staff are required to attend continuing education annually. They are a great source of information and are always happy to help with any pet care questions. They are also quick with a treat and scratch behind the ear to make sure our patient's visits are a good 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

Email: info@AVvets.com

Website: www.AVvets.com



Hours of operation:

Monday through Friday 7:30a to 5:30p

Saturday 8:00a to 1:00p

Call 685-1650 to schedule an appointment.

Your Senior Dog



Apple Valley Animal Hospital

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Growing Older

Unfortunately, our pets age much faster than we do. A ten year old dog is, depending on its weight, the equivalent of a fifty-six to seventy-eight 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 dogs are more likely to have health problems than younger pets. This chart will help you find your dog's age compared to a humans.

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

Is your dog a Senior?				
Dogs Age	Weight in pounds			
	0-20	21-50	51-90	>90
Equivalent Human Years				
5 yrs	36	37	40	42
6 yrs	40	42	45	49
7 yrs	44	47	50	56
8 yrs	48	51	55	64
9 yrs	52	56	61	71
10 yrs	56	60	66	78
11 yrs	60	65	72	86
12 yrs	64	69	77	93
13 yrs	68	74	82	101
14 yrs	72	78	88	102
15 yrs	76	83	93	115
16 yrs	80	87	99	123
17 yrs	84	92	104	
18 yrs	88	96	109	
19 yrs	92	101	115	

Warning Signs:

- Changes in water consumption
- Change in urine production (especially an increase)
- Change in 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 Senior Conditions

Periodontal Disease

Periodontal disease and broken, worn, and 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 dogs 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 dogs. 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.

Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome (CDS)

Symptoms of CDS are often attributed to normal aging. In many cases medications can reverse these symptoms, adding to the quality of your pet's life. Signs of CDS include: aimless wandering, appearing lost or confused, standing at the wrong side of doors, less family interaction, sleeping more, sleeping less at night, forgetting house training, pacing, appetite and behavior changes.

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

The AVAH Senior Exam

Ideally, senior pets 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 pets experience pain or discomfort from arthritis and other conditions, every exam includes a mobility and pain analysis.



Laboratory Testing: Many species of dogs are predisposed to specific conditions and illnesses. Our doctors will select tests specifically suited to your pets 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 pets 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.