



**Southside
Animal
Hospital**

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Blood Pressure in Your Pet

Hypertension and Your Cat

High blood pressure is the most significant cardiovascular disease of older cats. It can be caused by other problems or can be a primary disease that causes other problems in your cat's body. High blood pressure can be caused by chronic renal failure, hyperthyroidism, diabetes mellitus, obesity, and other heart disease. 17% of hypertensive cats have primary hypertension.



Hypertension and Your Dog

Dogs are less likely than cats to have high blood pressure. Hypertension in dogs is usually secondary to other problems. These include renal disease, hypothyroidism, Cushing's Disease, diabetes mellitus, obesity, and heart disease.

The Effects of Hypertension

Hypertension targets and damages many organs. The eyes are at risk for blindness caused by retinal detachment, bleeding in the retina, or a slow degeneration of the retina. Blindness can be permanent. The kidneys are at great risk as well. Animals with hypertension are at risk for going into kidney failure from damage done to the kidneys from the high blood pressure. The heart can also be damaged. High blood pressure makes it harder for the heart to pump, and leads to heart damage over time. There is also an increased risk of damage to the brain especially with an increased chance of stroke.

What is normal blood pressure for my pet?

Blood pressure should be the same in dogs and cats. The higher the blood pressure is, the more risk there is to the organs of the body. We look at Systolic Blood Pressure to determine if your pet is hypertensive.

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|--------------|----------------------------------------|
| <150 mmHg | Normal |
| 150-160 mmHg | Borderline blood pressure |
| 160-180 mmHg | High (moderate risk for organ damage) |
| >180 mmHg | Very High (high risk for organ damage) |

What should I do to screen my pet for hypertension?

In all cats 9 years of age and older, we recommend checking blood pressure with the annual wellness examination. We would also recommend this test for any cat with a predisposing condition or symptoms of hypertension.

If your dog has a predisposing condition or symptoms of hypertension, then we will recommend that your dog receives this test.



Your Pet's Result _____

Action Taken _____

Recommended Recheck _____