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Companion Animals and the Role They Play with Senior Citizens

It is said that a dog is man's best friend and a cat has nine lives. However, ownership of a dog or a cat is never more poignant than it is with a senior citizen. The positives that can be gained from owning a dog or cat are documented and valid.

1. A loving and affectionate dog can help an elderly person feel less isolated from the rest of the world.
2. Geriatric researchers have shown that elderly dog owners were more likely to be active than non-pet owners.
3. Elderly persons who own a dog or cat have a sense of purpose. When an elderly person doesn't have a family to care for, a dog or cat can make them feel needed.
4. Elderly persons who own a dog or cat have better mental health and a lower incidence of depression and, in general, have a higher mental health score than those without pets.
5. Elderly persons who own a dog or cat may experience health benefits, such as lower blood pressure and cholesterol and fewer sleep problems.
6. Elderly people are particularly likely to benefit from the health protective effects of cat ownership. Those with cats are less inclined to suffer heart attacks, they report less tension and stress and live longer overall.† Source: csicaregiver.com

When Does a Senior Citizen on Social Security Stop Filing Taxes?

The IRS requires you to file a tax return when your gross income exceeds the sum of the standard deduction (see chart on page 2) for your filing status plus one exemption amount (\$4,050). These filing rules still apply to senior citizens who are living on Social Security benefits. If you are a senior, however, you don't count your Social Security income as gross income. If Social Security is your sole source of income, then you don't need to file a tax return.

When Seniors Must File

If you are unmarried and at least 65 years of age, then you must file an income tax return if your gross income is \$11,650 or more. However, if this is the only income you receive, then your gross income equals zero, and you don't have to file a federal income tax return. But if you do earn other income that is not tax-exempt, then each year you must determine whether the total exceeds \$11,950. If you are married and file a joint return with a spouse who is also 65 or older, you must file a return if your combined income is \$23,300 or more. If your spouse is under 65 years old, then the threshold amount decreases to \$22,050. Keep in mind that these income thresholds apply to the 2017 tax year, and generally increase slightly each year.

Continued on next page

What Our Clients Say About Us

“As a satisfied client, I have used Marcia L. Campbell for many years for my tax returns.” RT

Filing Status/Standard Deduction

Single	\$ 6,350
Married Filing Jointly/ Surviving Spouse	\$12,700
Married Filing Separately	\$ 6,350
Head of Household	\$ 9,350

For 2017



You can e-mail us at Toni@MCampbellCPA.com to receive your newsletter by e-mail!

When Does a Senior CitizenContinued From Pg 1

When to Include Social Security

There are certain situations when seniors must include their Social Security benefits in gross income. If you are married but file a separate tax return and live with your spouse at any time during the year, then all of your Social Security benefits are considered gross income, which may require you to file a tax return. In addition, a portion of your Social Security benefits are included in gross income, regardless of your filing status, in any year the sum of half your Social Security plus all other income, including tax-exempt interest, exceeds \$25,000 or \$32,000 if you are married filing jointly.


Tax Credits For Seniors

Even if you must file a tax return, there are possible ways to reduce the amount of tax you have to pay on your taxable income. If you are 65 years old and your income from sources other than Social Security is not high, you may be eligible for a credit. †

Call us with any questions.

Source:IRS/turbotax.com

Visit our website: www.mcampbellcpa.com

At the top right corner of our website, you will see a blue  circle with arrows that is the link to our ‘File Share.’ This is a safe and secure way to send us your files that include your personal, private information. If you haven’t already registered, there is an option for ‘New User Registration’ and when you click it, you will be directed to enter your name, e-mail address and password and our office will receive a notification to confirm and when that is complete, you will be notified that your account is set-up. We will also e-mail you the procedure for transferring files.† Contact our office for more information: (951) 686-3608.



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