



# Fall Newsletter

"You and Your Pets Are Part Of Our Family"

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Let us remember



November 11th

In This Issue:

## November is Senior Wellness Month



### Who is a Senior? Dogs and cats age much quicker than you or I.

**In general, animals 7 years of age and older are considered at risk for age-related physical and behavioral changes.**

Remember that both dogs and cats tend to hide any signs of illness and may not show any until the disease or disorder is well advanced. Many of the illnesses we currently treat as acute problems can be prevented, if detected in the early stage. Simple blood and urine tests can help us detect disease early, obtain baseline data and adjust diet and treatment where required.

**This month we have a special focus on our senior pets. The seniors special is for that all important exam and bloodwork, as well as samples provided by our drug manufacturers to get some arthritic pets on appropriate medications to show how much it can help. For all our seniors that have had their regular yearly exam and are coming in for the wellness 6 month check, the geriatric blood panel with urine is available at the same 25% off!**



### Senior Bloodwork and Urinalysis.....One of the easiest things we can do to help our older pets!

The most common abnormalities detected on *history and physical examination* in both dogs and cats include:

\*Dental disease, lumps, vomiting, polyuria/polydipsia ( excessive passing of urine/excessive thirst)

Note: many dogs are found to be overweight. Oppositely, weight loss is commonly reported in cats.

The most common *laboratory abnormalities* detected include:

\*Elevated liver enzymes, Elevated kidney enzyme and inappropriate urine specific gravity.

Note: additionally, in cats, diabetes mellitus and hyperthyroidism were detected.



Many of the above conditions are easily managed with medication and/or diet change, as long as we have early detection. Most pets will **not** have any **visible** signs of liver or kidney disease, until they have already lost 75% of organ function. That is why yearly testing is key. If the disease is diagnosed in its early stages, your companion could live to their full life expectancy.

**Together we can help your pet.** You know your pet better than anyone else and can alert us to changes in your pet's behavior. Look for these signs and let us know if they become apparent.

- Just not him/herself
- Drinking or urinating more often
- Increased Stiffness or limping
- Interacting less with family
- Noticeable weight gain or loss
- Showing Tremors or shaking
- Seeming disoriented
- Having difficulty climbing stairs
- Having Bad breath/swollen gums
- Changing eating patterns
- New lumps or bumps

Many of the above are symptoms of treatable conditions, with medication or diet you can see major changes in your pets behavior, and improve their quality of life.

# Celebrating Seniors!

November 1-30th

Because bloodwork is a key tool in discovering any underlying health problems, many undetectable by physical exam alone, we are offering a senior special this month

## All Senior Pets!!!

Come in and see Dr. Taylor for a Physical Exam, free medicine trial for those with arthritis, Diet Analysis with a Blood Panel and urinalysis for:

**\$114.86**

Also includes free 4kg bag of food!!

\*This will provide us with your pets "base Normals" and detect disease in their early (and treatable) stages. As we know, early detection increases the chance of successful intervention.

# Celebrating Seniors!

November 1-30th

Any Senior pets that take advantage of our senior special in the month of November will be entered in our Senior's Draw.

It's an exciting prize just in time for the holiday season!



## Common Problems for our aging companions:

### Dental Disease in Senior Pets

Periodontal (dental) disease is a major chronic health problem in senior dogs, affecting 85 to 95 percent of all dogs age 4 and older. The first signs of periodontal disease are bad breath and a buildup of plaque on your dog's teeth, which can lead to gingivitis (inflammation of the gums) and periodontitis (inflammation of the soft tissue, ligaments and bone that surround and support the teeth). Without treatment, these conditions can lead to tooth loss and provide entry for bacteria into the blood, which may lead to infection in almost any body organ. Consult your veterinarian when changes in your dog's mouth are first noted.

### Kidney Problems

The first sign of kidney problems may be a pet that drinks more and urinates more. The pet may lose its appetite, vomit, or become sluggish. Older animals have more problems with urinary tract infection and some older female dogs develop urinary incontinence. There are diets and medication to help with these issues.

### Declining Vision

Eye changes begin around 7-8 years of age, senile or age-related cataract formation is common in pets older than 12. Eye changes may be a clue to disease elsewhere in the body. For example, hypertension can affect the eyes and cataracts may be due to diabetes.

### Slowing metabolic rate

Older pets have a tendency to gain weight and become obese. They are more likely to have heart and lung problems, joint problems and are an anesthetic risk. Older obese cats are more likely to develop diabetes, and both obese dogs and cats tend to live shorter lives. A diet for senior pets would be recommended.

### Endocrine diseases

Older animals are at risk for the development of thyroid diseases, diabetes and disorders of the adrenal glands. Early detection of these disorders is possible, and medication is available to help.

### Behavioral Changes

Older pets may seem confused or disoriented. They may sleep more, lose house training, become disinterested in their environment and even their owners. There are diets and medications that can help.

### Heat and Cold intolerance

As your pet ages, they become more susceptible to extremes in temperature. They produce less of the hormones needed to maintain normal body temperature. Ensure your older pet has adequate shelter to keep them warm and dry in

