

Gilbert St Gossip

Is your pet “over the hill”

The thought might not have even crossed your mind ... **but could your pet be starting to show his age?**

Most people are not aware that cats and dogs are generally considered ‘senior’ after the age of about 8 years. Whilst the majority of our furry friends are well off showing ANY signs of slowing down at this age, there are a few things you need to watch out for.



Obvious changes might include grey hairs around the muzzle, the occasional accident around the house, hearing loss or stiff legs. Beyond the changes you can see, there can be a slowing metabolism and changing nutritional requirements.

So if you have a senior pet, it's important to arrange more regular check ups with us. We will watch for trends in your pet's weight, check they don't have sore joints and examine them for new lumps or bumps. A thorough dental check, eye check and heart check is also important for a senior pet.

We may also suggest blood tests, urine tests and blood pressure measurements to make sure that, internally, all is going along nicely.

If you have a senior pet call us and arrange a check up today - we can help your pet live a longer and healthier life.



Patient of the Month

Hazel Bean visited Dr Jenni because Mum had noticed a soft mobile mass on the base of her tail. We took a sample of cells from the mass and sent them to the laboratory for testing and found that mass was a soft tissue sarcoma, which is a common tumor in dogs.

We took Hazel Bean to surgery and were faced with a dilemma - to have the best chance of curing her cancer and preventing it from re-growing; we needed to remove the mass with large margins of normal tissue around it. This is a real challenge on the tail where there is very little spare skin.

It is really important that we check all lumps and bumps as soon as you notice them - it is much easier to remove tumors when they are small and we then have the best chance of a good outcome for our patients.

Read more about Hazel Bean on our website: www.rivapetz.com.au.

Three common Senior Pet Questions

1. CAN MY PET GET DEMENTIA?

Yes - we now know that, like humans, dogs and cats can suffer from dementia. Common signs include becoming lost in usually familiar surroundings, loss of toilet training, trouble finding doors and stairways, sleep disturbances at night, separation anxiety and staring at walls. We can help you support your pet through this - just ask us for more information.

2. CAN I STILL EXERCISE MY PET AS HE GETS OLDER?

Yes - consistency is the key and this will help keep him mobile and lean. Don't overdo it and avoid repetitive exercise such as throwing the ball twenty times over as this can place added stress on joints. We can advise you on an exercise regime for your senior pet.

3. DO I NEED TO CHANGE MY PET'S DIET AS HE GETS OLDER?

Yes - senior pets need a well balanced diet that is generally lower in calories, but still has adequate protein, fat and fibre. Some pets will require diets high in essential fatty acids for arthritis support. We are the best place to seek advice when it comes to a senior diet.

If you have any questions about your senior pet we are always here to provide you with the best possible advice.

Heating up the Fleas

Fleas love winter. Why? Because their eggs love a warm house to hatch in! If you've suddenly noticed your dog is itching or your cat is over grooming or, heaven forbid, you have itchy ankles, it could be FLEAS! Flea eggs require a warm temperature to hatch so if you've turned the heating on to keep warm you might have turned on flea hatching too.

THAT'S WHY IT'S SUPER IMPORTANT TO APPLY FLEA TREATMENT ALL YEAR ROUND.

Ask us for the most suitable flea prevention for your pet.

