

# Gilbert St Gossip

## Annual Total Wellness Plans – Exciting News



### SAVE ON PET CARE ALL YEAR ROUND!!

Save \$\$\$ by taking advantage of our Total Wellness Plans with unlimited free "Primary Consults".

The average annual saving for a 15kg dog is \$350.

For peace of mind - your furry friend's health is always number ONE at RivaPetz Pet Care.

The Total Wellness Plan has been designed to provide convenient, affordable and optimal health care for your dog.

Here are a few inclusions you will enjoy:

Annual Vaccinations

12 months Intestinal Worming - with Drontal

Unlimited Primary Consultations

12 months Flea Prevention - with Advantage

12 months Heartworm Prevention with Proheart SR12

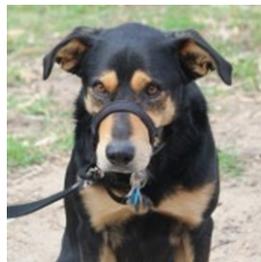
Twice Yearly Comprehensive Physical Examinations

**Come in or call us to discuss your dogs annual plan.**

## Senior Wellness Checks—\$20 discount

During July we are focussing on our Senior Patients.

Senior Pets are all pets over 7 years old. As we learn more about the best way to look after our pets and with improved nutrition, pets are now living much longer, healthier lives. But, just as for humans, age does creep up on them too. You may begin to notice that your once-frisky pet seems to have slowed down a bit. Being aware of the natural changes that can occur as your pet reaches his or her golden years, as well as what you can do to help keep your pet as healthy, active and comfortable as possible, can ensure that you both enjoy your pet's life to the fullest.



When a vet examines an animal, they look at, and feel the animal's body from the outside, but they can't see into the inside. One of the simplest ways to monitor a patient's health on the inside is with blood testing.

Blood tests can show how well the organs are functioning and can pick up subtle changes that might indicate a disease is developing. This becomes especially important as an animal gets older.

As a special offer we are giving a \$20 discount off the price of comprehensive blood testing for our seniors who visit for a wellness check during July.

## Caring for a Senior Pet—our top tips!

You might not realise it but dogs and cats are considered senior citizens when they reach 8 years of age. Our furry senior friends require some extra special attention to help keep them happy and healthy.

### Here's a few of our top tips for senior care.

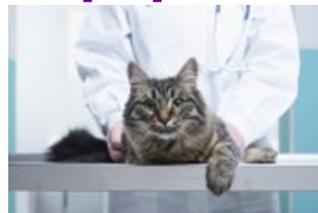
**1. A regular health check** is *absolutely essential* for your ageing friend. Much can change over a year (equivalent to 6-8 years in human years) and a check up at twice a year will help us pick up on any changes and allow us to initiate a treatment plan, such as pain relief for arthritis.

**2. Develop a keen eye for changes** such as fluctuations in weight, appetite, thirst and urination. The presence of a cough, a change in sleeping habits, stiff joints and accidents around the house can all be a sign of underlying illness.

**3. Diet:** Our ageing pets have changing nutritional requirements. We recommend you feed your senior a *complete and balanced premium food* suitable for a mature pet.

**4. Lumps and bumps:** It's a good idea to run your hands over your pet every week and feel for the presence of any lumps or bumps. If you find anything new or unusual, arrange a lump check with us as soon as possible.

**Phone us if you have any questions about your senior pet, as we will always be able to give you the best advice.**



## Patient of the Month

Muff is a delightful little 13 year old Maltese cross. She has been coming to Rivapetz for many years to have her coat clipped. She brings along her best doggy friend Russell, another senior Maltese cross, to have his hair done as well.

Muff and Russell need sedation to be clipped, and because they are senior patients, they have had some blood tests done over the past few years. We perform blood tests on older and unwell animals to assess their organ function. This is especially important if they are undergoing sedation or anaesthesia. Fortunately both Muff's and Russell's blood test results have been really good.

We have also been monitoring their dental health over the years, and eventually they needed to have some rotten teeth extracted. Muff and Russell had a general anaesthetic and dental treatment earlier this year. The improvement in their mouths has been dramatic! Keeping the mouth healthy is very important, because diseased teeth and gums harbour bacteria that can affect other parts of the body. A healthy mouth also has a much fresher smell! Muff and Russell both recovered quickly. It was also nice that they could be together for their day in the hospital. They were able to share a bed and this helped to reduce any stress.