



Best Friends Veterinary Group Newsletter

WINTER 2011

Looking After Your Pet in its Twilight Years

Whilst cats and dogs age much quicker than humans, many of the same processes occur within their bodies as ours such as stiff joints, weight gain from lack of exercise or even weight loss from loss of appetite.

Just like us as they reach their senior years they also become more prone to more serious conditions and diseases such as arthritis, diabetes, heart disease, liver disease and many forms of cancer. Many such illnesses can be hard to spot from simply observing your pet, as animals are instinctively good at hiding things and never more so than when they are under the weather.

As pack animals their place in the hierarchy is key, and so the first sign of weakness is the last thing they want to show, even today as part of your families "pack".

How Do We Diagnose What We Can't See?

By doing blood and urine tests veterinary staff can look at what our pets aren't or can't tell us, enabling us to make accurate diagnoses and prescribe the best course of care for your furry member of the family.

It is due to this that we recommend our Pet MOT annually as part of your pets preventative care from the age of 5 for cats or 5-7 for dogs (dependant on their breed weight). Early detection of many common diseases means that your pet can get the treatment they need before they become acute. Just as with humans

the sooner a condition is diagnosed, usually the better the outlook.

What Is A Pet MOT?

A Pet MOT is quick and non intrusive, and comprises of a general health check, as well as a blood test and a urine test, both with full analysis.

Here at **Best Friends Veterinary Group**, we believe so strongly in the importance and benefits of senior pets having Pet MOTs, that we have heavily discounted the cost to our clients from almost £100 to only £27.50.

What If My Pet Has A Lifelong Condition?

In most cases, once a condition has been diagnosed, your Vet will recommend an ongoing treatment plan that will involve your pet being on lifelong medication. Again, just like humans, no cat or dog is exactly the same and so dosage rates have to be monitored and adjusted.

This is done through simple blood testing and will need to be done for an initial dosage, then at regular intervals as your pet ages and the condition remains. Initial intervals may be as regular as every two weeks, decreasing to once or twice a year, however this will be governed by the drug prescribed - your Vet will be able to advise you on an estimated frequency.

Remember your pet ages much faster than we do, so whilst a six monthly monitoring test may seem very frequent to us, that is the equivalent to only once every three and a half years for your cat.

The really good news though is that



even with lifelong conditions such as diabetes, most pets can live normal lives and enjoy many more playful years with you while they receive regular medication and monitoring.

If you have any concerns about your pet aging or in general please speak to your Vet today.

Special Offers

• Healthy Paws Plan •

Sign up to our Healthy Paws Plan before the end of December & get a FREE cat or dog Xmas Stocking

• Pet MOT •

We advise all cats & dogs over 5 years to have a Pet MOT to look for early warning signs of age related diseases - incs general health check, blood & urine test. That's over £100 of tests for £27.50!!

Recommend a Friend

Receive a £5 credit to your account when a friend registers at the same practice. Pick up a leaflet in your local surgery or visit our website
www.bestfriendsgroup.com

What is Feline Hyperthyroidism

Cats with hyperthyroidism have a thyroid gland that is producing excessive amounts of thyroid hormones which:

- Are essential to proper growth of body cells and the development of these cells for specific roles in the body
- Help regulate the metabolism of protein, fat and carbohydrate by cells
- Are involved in the regulation of heat production and oxygen consumption and therefore a wide-range of metabolic processes

Excess thyroid hormones cause a large increase in the metabolic rate, so a cat with hyperthyroidism has to eat a lot of food to provide this energy.

Recognising the Signs of Hyperthyroidism

Hyperthyroidism is more often seen in older cats. Typically, you will notice that your cat is suffering from severe weight loss whilst maintaining a ravenous appetite. Other common signs to look for include:

- Increased restlessness & irritability
- Diarrhoea
- Frequent urination
- Anxious facial expression
- Unkempt coat
- Occasional vomiting
- Increased fluid intake
- Rapid heart rate

Surgery Numbers

Billericay	01277 651009	Peterborough, Broadway	01733 562904
Chatteris	01354 692309	Rainham	01708 555788
Chingford	0208 524 6326	Romford	01708 762266
Dagenham	0208 595 5818	South Woodham Ferrers	01245 321717
Holbech	01406 426222	Shenfield	01277 221193
Isle of Dogs	0207 536 7555	Sawtry	01487 830595
Leicester	01162 517677	Thrapston	01832 731731
March	01354 653435	Whittlesey	01733 208090
Mile End	0207 790 4599	Yaxley	01733 243000
Milton Keynes	01908 270144		
Oakham	01572 770011		
Oakhill	0208 527 0034		

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A Big Thank You to Dechra Veterinary Products and Boehringer Ingelheim who have helped make this newsletter possible.



Treatment

Hyperthyroidism can be treated very successfully, treatment will involve bringing the levels of thyroid hormones in the blood back to normal, through medication, radioactive iodine or surgery.

The Importance of Getting Treatment

If left untreated cats with Hyperthyroidism may develop other serious conditions such as heart complaints and high blood pressure. If you suspect your cat has any of the tell-tale signs of hyperthyroidism, please book an appointment with your Vet immediately.

Healthy Paws Plan

Your Pets Preventative Care Made Easy & Affordable with Direct Debit



Ask how
you can get
10% OFF all
your
vets bills

that's 10% OFF everything supplied
by us inc food & toys

Ask a Member of Staff How to Sign Up Today!