

Pawsitive Press

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Senior Pets 1
- Senior Pets/Hamilton Olarte 2
- Grey Muzzle Organization 3
- Coupons 4

Related Webpages:



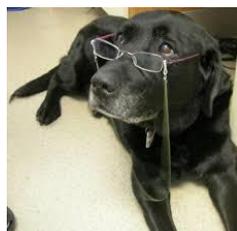
Senior Pets

Heather Manfredi, D.V.M.



What is a senior pet?

We are all familiar with the term “senior” to describe an older pet but the actual age when a pet is considered a senior may vary between species and breeds. Middle age would equate to approximately 7 to 8 years of age for most dogs and cats (except for large-breed dogs that may reach middle age a year or two earlier). As the pet enters its senior years, more frequent examinations and diagnostic tests are recommended so we are able to fully monitor your pet’s health and address your pet’s needs. Your family veterinarian can assess your pet and his lifestyle and describe present physical changes, as well as a management plan, so that you will be prepared for those “golden years.”



My pet is healthy, and never been sick a day, why do “senior” tests and bloodwork?

We recommend establishing baseline lab-work on your healthy senior pet to use for future comparison, as well as to detect abnormalities before your pet expresses symptoms. Subtle changes we note in laboratory test results may indicate the presence of underlying disease. Often when diseases are discovered early they can be managed more easily, adding quality to your pet’s later years. To determine the most informative clinical assessments, your veterinarian will perform a complete and comprehensive physical exam and take a thorough history. These two tools are the most valuable when formulating a diagnostic and treatment plan for healthy and sick senior pets.

What are some of the things I should look for at home with my senior?

Any changes, however seemingly small, should be brought to your veterinarian’s attention. Examples include:

- frequency or quantity of water drinking
- change in urination habits
- change in appetite
- vomiting or diarrhea
- change in energy level
- weight loss or gain



The Kitty City Gazette

These particular symptoms either individually or combined, can indicate a variety of different diseases, such as kidney failure, cardiac disease, nutritional problems, parasites, or cancer. It is important that you see your family veterinarian if you feel that there are changes to your pet’s behavior or health. As an owner your observations and information is critical to helping your veterinarian formulate a diagnostic plan to treat your senior pet.



Senior Pets Continued

A few common scenarios in older pets that may need to be addressed with the help of your veterinarian are:

- mobility issues
- senility or confusion
- anxiety
- incontinence



Mobility issues may require x-rays in addition to a physical exam. Arthritis is very common; however there may be more serious causes for difficulty and lack of movement. Changes in behavior, such as increased vocalization, increased wandering, repetitive behavior or activities, and even house soiling may require additional tests to rule out medical causes. If all medical causes for such changes are ruled out then there may be a chance your pet is becoming senile. Senility in animals, known as Cognitive Dysfunction, was first clinically researched in the early 1990's. While we are aware of this syndrome, there are

not specific tests for brain function and many times this diagnosis is made by ruling out other causes for the symptoms your pet is experiencing. Please see your veterinarian to discuss this syndrome as there are medications to help your pet!

Senior Pets are Seasoned at Love!



Adopt a Senior Pet!
Search www.PetFinder.com to search senior dogs in need of a home in your area!

Please Help Us Welcome a New Member of the AHOD Family....Hamilton Olarte!



I was born in Colombia, South America. After a little traveling I made it to New Jersey/New York Metropolitan area where I attended high school and there after I attended college in the state of Pennsylvania. After college I began working as Veterinary Technician for a few years, where I fell in love with Veterinary Medicine. I have since been delighted to grow into the management role where building teams and servicing clients drive my career. I have served in a management role for 17 years now. Since stepping into management I have been fortunate and honored to speak and teach at various conferences to spread the benefit of a practice manager in a veterinary business. My goal of benefiting the practice management position has led me to be the founder of 2 Veterinary Practice associations, one in Texas and the other in South Carolina.

The most important thing to me in this world is my 4 special ladies (Pennie, Makayla, and Danyella & Marlee) along with my other babies (4 dogs – Labrador Retriever = Samba, Jack Russell = Fiona, and 2 Rhodesian Ridgebacks = Obi & Imani). They are what remind me on a daily basis what it is to have life and love!

After going through life with a very deep passion and admiration for ALL animals I have finally fallen into my dream career position! Serving as the Practice Manager for Animal Hospital of Dunedin. Please know that I am honored to be your team mate in making this wonderful facility the most successful veterinary hospital ever!!!

Do not regret growing older; it is a privilege denied to many.

—Irish Proverb

blogpaws celebrates

Senior Pets

Age is a just a number; life is an attitude.

For senior pets,

Minimizing Age-Related Disease

is more important than exact age.

Brush Teeth

on a daily basis & provide appropriate objects on which your pet can chew to reduce accumulation of plaque & tartar.



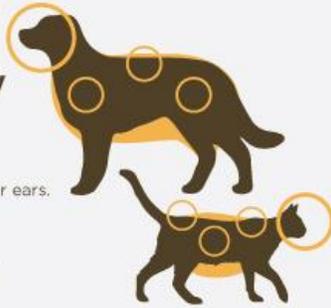
Home-Prepared Meals

should be formulated by a veterinary nutritionist.



Detect Cancer Early

- Blood tests rarely
- Body lumps and bumps,
 - Changes in weight,
 - Slow-healing sores, and
 - Bleeding from the mouth, nose or ears.



Watch for Obesity

Obesity is more common in adult and senior pets than in juveniles.

Seniors by the Numbers:

32%

of homes to pet parents ages 65+ include a dog

37 yrs

oldest cat living on record: Creme Puff

75%

of pet life span lived = "geriatric" classification

84%

believe older dogs should eat differently*



We envision a world where no old dog dies alone and afraid.

The Grey Muzzle Organization improves the lives of at-risk senior dogs by providing funding and resources to animal shelters, rescue organizations, sanctuaries, and other non-profit groups nationwide.

Values

♥ We believe old dogs contribute positively to our quality of life and have much to teach us about patience, respect, responsibility, loyalty and unconditional love.

♥ We believe every senior dog deserves to live out their golden years, months, weeks or even days in a place of love, security and peace.

♥ We believe dogs are not a disposable commodity; rather, they depend on us to care for them through all stages of their lives.

♥ We believe in working with diverse organizations from across the country that share our fundamental values.

♥ We believe in honest and open decision making that allows us to be accountable to our donors and the organizations we support.

♥ We believe in providing educational support, advocacy, and sharing of best practices for those who support senior dogs.

See more at:

<http://www.greymuzzle.org/About-Us/Mission---Vision.aspx#sthash.H0JtqM90.dp>

Why Adopt a Senior Pet?



Energy Level

Happy to sit by your side and get a belly rub.



Socialization

Already knows how to behave as part of a pack.



Contentment

Gain a new best friend by saving a senior's life.



Senior Guinea Pigs

- Over 5 years old
- Add softer bedding
- Protect against cracked skin
- May enjoy a companion



Senior Ferrets

- Over 4 years old
- Feed animal protein
- Warm temperature
- Use ramps, lower access



Senior Rabbits

- Over 8 years old
- Protect from calluses
- Need traction
- Avoid inflammation



What If Your Pet Outlives You?

Download this free PDF from the Humane Society of the United States. Keep your pets protected!



<http://blogpaws.com/17BAIQR>

August 2013: Senior Pet Month

Sources: • petMd.com • Tufts University • Nicholas Dodman, DVM • Dr Patrick Mahaney •

For more information on Senior Pet Month, visit blogpaws.com



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“Caring for pets with love and kindness”



We're on the Web!
www.ahofd.com



Animal Hospital OF DUNEDIN
Caring for Pets with Love and Kindness

\$5 Off

\$5 off Bath with Annual Exam

Call to schedule an annual exam appointment and leave your pet for a bath and receive \$5 off the cost of the bathing services. The bath will include shampooing, ear cleaning, pedicure, warm air drying, and brush out. Must be presented at the time of purchase. Coupon may not be combined with any other offer.

Expires: 10/31/14 NL



Animal Hospital OF DUNEDIN
Caring for Pets with Love and Kindness

\$110

Senior Wellness Screen

(\$50.32 savings)

Senior Wellness Screen includes the following: chemistry, cbc, heartworm test, thyroid level, urinalysis, and microalbuminaria (for cats also includes leukemia and fiv test). Call the office today to schedule your pets visit. May not be combined with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase.

Expires: 10/31/14 NL



Animal Hospital OF DUNEDIN
Caring for Pets with Love and Kindness

\$10 Off

\$200 Retail Mix and Match

- *Shampoo
- *Food
- *Heartworm Prevention
- *Dietary Supplements
- *Flea and Tick Control

Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. May not be combined with any other offer.

This coupon can not be applied to prescription medications other than heartworm/flea control Epiration 10/31/14 NL