

Pawsitive Press

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Senior Pets	1
Senior Pets Continued	2
New Product Review/Oravet	3
Coupons	4

Related Webpages:

Who Ya Callin' Old?

By: Dr. Christen Woodley, D.V.M.

As many of us approach our golden years in the sunshine state, our pets are aging alongside us. Granted we may not notice it, some may be more graceful than others, but it is inevitable. And there are certain changes we want to look out for so we can more comfortably walk to the sunsets together. As your pet enters its senior years, more frequent examinations and diagnostic tests are recommended. This is so that we are able to fully monitor your pet's health and address your pet's needs, ideally before an impending medical crisis presents itself. As your family veterinarian, we can assess your pet and its lifestyle and monitor physical changes, as well as develop a management plan if indicated, so that you will be prepared for those "golden years."

Any changes, however seemingly small, should be brought to your veterinarian's attention. Though it can be hard to notice changes when you are together every day, there are overall things that you can be on the lookout for. Important things to keep an eye are thirst, appetite, and weight. A change in any of these areas can indicate an underlying medical condition and should not be presumed



to be "old age." Increases in appetite can be caused by medical conditions such as Diabetes, Hyperthyroidism, and Cushing's. Decreased appetite can be caused by problems in areas of the liver, kidneys, pancreas, gall bladder, bladder, prostate, pancreas, etc. Similarly, increases in thirst can be associated with Diabetes, Kidney Disease, Cushing's, Urinary Tract Infections, Liver Disease, etc. Many of these conditions may also cause you pet to lose weight, have muscle loss, possibly even poor hair coat. Most of these diseases are screened for with senior lab work. Even if your pet is not experiencing outward changes, it is always nice to have a baseline exam and lab work and weight check to be used for monitoring and to know where the normals are before something happens. Often when diseases are discovered early they can be managed more easily, adding quality to your pet's later years.

Mobility issues are

also one of the common ailments we start to notice in our senior cats and dogs. True diagnosis of the underlying cause of stiffness, lameness, etc. 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. We do have Eastern and traditional Western medicine modalities at The Animal Hospital of Dunedin to further assist your pet in comfort and strength if need be.

Some owners will report that their pet is suffering from dementia like symptoms. This can be changes in behavior, such as increased vocalization, increased wandering, repetitive behavior or activities, and even house soiling. Though this can sometimes be age related, we would want to rule out a medical source before assuming that. Therefore we may request 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 is also known as Cognitive Dysfunction; and, 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.

Senior Pets Continued

Something so simple as a change in bark, or coughing fits can also indicate an underlying disease. You might even notice that Fluffy or Fido is getting “aging bumps.” Though our pets can get benign masses and warts, some growths may be more serious. So before chalking it up to an age spot, let us check it out and make a plan for what level of monitoring is in the best medical interest of your pet. We at The Animal Hospital of Dunedin hope to help make aging as graceful and painless as possible for your pet. Once again, early detection can be a big part of that. So even if you pet feels well at home, we still advise having our staff get some baseline information that may be of assistance sooner rather than later.



5 TIPS TO KEEP YOUR SENIOR PET HAPPY & HEALTHY

1 FOOD = FUEL
Pick the right food for your aging pet and feed the correct amount. Choose food that is specially formulated for older pets.

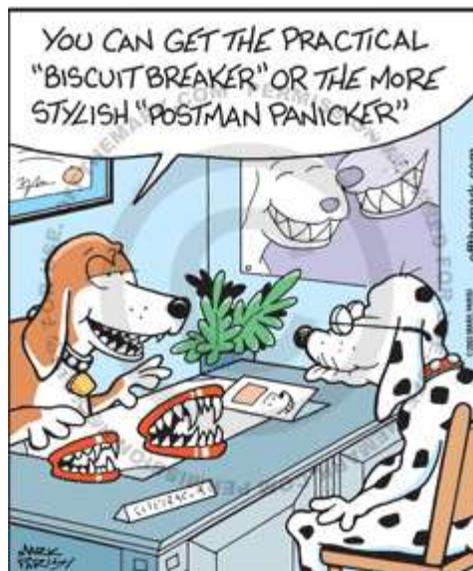
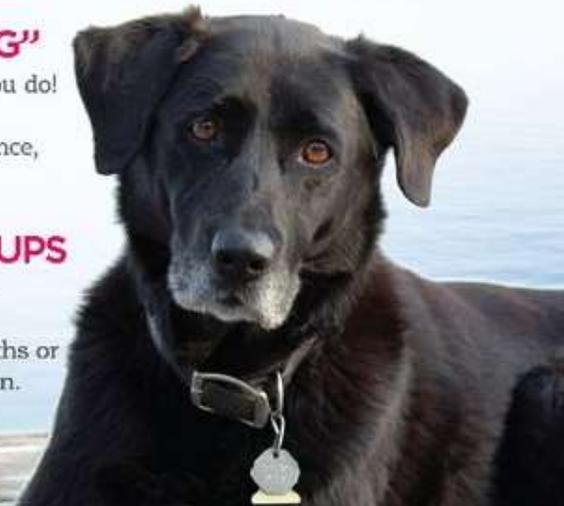
2 KEEP 'EM ACTIVE
Pets lacking adequate physical activity can lose muscle mass and cognitive function much faster than active pets. Set a target activity schedule with your veterinarian.

3 BE A “WATCH DOG”
No one knows your pet like you do! Keep an eye out for sudden changes in your pet’s appearance, activity level or behavior.

4 REGULAR CHECK-UPS
Regular veterinary exams are critical for early detection of problems. Visit every six months or as advised by your veterinarian.

5 KNOW THE SIGNS
These symptoms may indicate a larger problem:

- Changes in urination
- Sudden increase or decrease in weight or appetite
- Weakness or abrupt change in activity level
- Sore mouth, vomiting or excessive coughing
- Lameness or limping
- Hair loss or change in quality of coat



ORAVET®

OraVet Chews clean and protect against plaque and tartar¹

Advanced dual-cleaning action is the difference

CLEAN

Chewing action helps scrub away the plaque



PROTECT

OraVet Chews form a protective barrier against the bacteria that lead to plaque and tartar buildup



Get the most out of your dog's dental cleanings

Regular dental cleanings are an important part of good oral health for your dog. And effective daily dental care can help make those cleanings go more smoothly.

OraVet Chews have been shown to extend the benefit of veterinary dental cleanings by reducing plaque and tartar buildup and bad breath.² Ask your veterinarian about using OraVet Chews following your dog's next cleaning.

	Size	Dog Weight	Calories per Chew
	Extra Small	3.5 to 9 pounds	26.8
	Small	10 to 24 pounds	47.7
	Medium	25 to 50 pounds	80.5
	Large	Over 50 pounds	128.2

The benefits of delmopinol



The special ingredient in OraVet Dental Hygiene Chews

The way in which OraVet Chews work is due to an ingredient called delmopinol. Used for years in a human oral rinse, delmopinol gives OraVet Chews their unique cleaning action.

Each chew contains delmopinol in its center, which is released throughout the mouth as soon as your dog starts chewing. Delmopinol creates a barrier against the bacteria that lead to the formation of plaque, tartar, and bad breath.

That's all it takes to provide serious daily dental care to your dog!



Dogs love OraVet Chews, and you will too!

A simple, tasty way to provide at-home dental care

OraVet Chews have a taste dogs love. How do we know? Because in a clinical trial, most dogs studied took OraVet Chews the first time offered.¹ And in a separate study owners said they enjoyed giving OraVet Chews to their dogs.³ Who knew cleaning your dog's teeth could be this easy!



Available in 4 Low-Calorie Sizes

Animal Hospital of Dunedin
 1355 Pinehurst Rd
 Dunedin, FL 34698

Phone: 727-733-9351
Fax: 727-733-8165
E-mail:
animalhospitalofdunedin@gmail.com



“Caring for pets with
 love and kindness since
 1977”



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



Animal Hospital
 OF DUNEDIN
Caring for Pets with Love and Kindness

\$1

\$1 First Exam - New Patient
 (\$49-\$80 Savings)

Includes comprehensive physical exam and one vaccine. Does not include 3yr Rabies vaccine. Must be presented at the time of purchase. Coupon may not be combined with any other offer. NL



Animal Hospital
 OF DUNEDIN
Caring for Pets with Love and Kindness

-\$5

\$5 Off Any Vaccine

Please call to schedule an appointment with one of our veterinarians. An exam will be performed when a vaccination is administered. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. Coupon may not be combined with any other offer. Expires 9/30/16 NL



Animal Hospital
 OF DUNEDIN
Caring for Pets with Love and Kindness

-10%

10% Off Dental Cleaning
 (Call for an appointment today 727-733-9351)

Discount applies to anesthesia, prophylaxis, and any other dental radiographs or extractions that might be needed. Offer excludes required pre-dental labwork. May not be combined with any other coupons or discounts. Must be presented at the time of purchase. Expires 9/30/16 NL