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www.abqpetcarehospital.com

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Monday - Friday ~ 8:00am - 8:00pm
Saturday & Sunday ~ 8:00am - 5:00pm



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Welcome our new Doctors –
Veronica Bingamon D.V.M.
Jaqueline Shrewsbury D.V.M.

Family Care for Family Pets

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IMPORTANT Senior Wellness Checklist

This checklist can help you detect behaviors and symptoms that may indicate potential health problems in your senior pet. Early detection is the key to helping your pet live a longer, healthier life. Take a few minutes and see if your pet is exhibiting any of the following:

- Change in water consumption
- Change in appetite
- Lethargic or depressed (listless behavior)
- Change in urine production (watch carefully for increased amounts of urine)
- Constipation
- Change in attitude (irritability)
- Change in sleeping habits
- Decrease in vision
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Weight gain
- Weight loss
- Bad breath or drooling
- Lumps or bumps on or under the skin
- Excessive panting or labored breathing
- Increased stiffness, trouble jumping or walking up stairs

If you checked any of these symptoms, call us today for more information on our Senior Pet Health Program.



A Special Message for Cat Owners ...

There are more than 90 million cats in the United States, or about 20 percent more cats than dogs. However, according to the **American Veterinary Medical Association**, cats are brought to the veterinarian only about **HALF** as often as dogs. Many veterinarians believe cats hide illness better than dogs, and many times owners may not realize there is a problem.

- Behavioral changes can be early signs of illness in both cats and dogs. These changes are often less obvious in cats.
- Cat owners may not notice subtle changes in appetite, elimination or other behavior until an illness is advanced.
- The risk of cancer, periodontal disease, obesity, kidney disease, thyroid disease and diabetes increases with age in cats.

\$20 OFF SENIOR CARE EXAM with blood work

PLEASE CALL TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

ABQ PETCARE HOSPITAL PLEASE PRESENT THIS SAVINGS COUPON PET CARE OFFER EXPIRES 11/30/2012

\$50 OFF FELINE DENTAL CARE PACKAGE

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\$10 OFF SENIOR CARE T4 THYROID TEST

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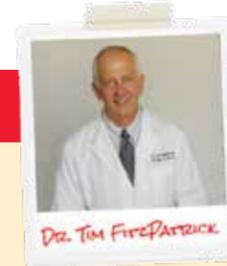
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An ABQ Petcare Publication for Pets and Their People



7x SEVEN TIMES

Pets age at a rate of five to seven times our aging process. So, a semi-annual exam is very important to your pet's well-being.

Thanks to exciting advancements in veterinary medicine and pet nutrition our pets can enjoy a longer, healthier and happier senior life.

We recommend a Senior Health Screening Exam for our senior pets seven years and older.

Not only does this screening aid in diagnosing early disease conditions, it will also establish a **baseline of normal values**. It is important that this individual baseline of your pet's health be established at the beginning of the senior years as it can be used in the future to detect changes in bodily functions that could signal a health problem.

Preparing and Caring For Your Pet's Senior Years...

We love our senior pets!

ABQ Petcare has put considerable time and planning into our **SENIOR CARE PROGRAM**. Our hope is that by expanding our efforts to educate clients about the needs of their senior pets, we can improve substantially the quality of life of all our patients as they age.

The fact is, many of the same principles that apply to aging in people also apply to our pets. In particular, many serious health problems which arise in our senior patients begin in ways which are not obvious. Problems such as diabetes and other endocrine disorders, kidney failure, heart diseases of various kinds, and cancer, all are life-threatening to your pet unless they are discovered in the earliest stages. Our goal is to do just that, by means of regular exams and diagnostic testing as indicated by the medical history. When simple diagnostic lab work is combined with an annual examination; kidney and liver disease, anemia, and other internal problems can

be discovered before any clinical symptoms appear. *Many times pets are sicker internally than they let us know externally, and a simple semi-annual physical could prove to be a life saver.*



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IMPORTANT FACT! Data from Senior Health Screening Exams have shown that more than 22% of senior dogs and 17% of senior cats that appear normal and healthy by their owner have been found to have significant subclinical disease.

We ask for your help in providing us with information about how your pet is doing at home. A thorough physical exam may discover some areas of concern you weren't aware of. And certain tests may be recommended to provide us with additional data. We will also offer to schedule a Senior Exam again in six months. All this is for the purpose of making your pet's "retirement years" as happy and comfortable as possible!



Pet Obesity – Are you taking years off your pet's life?

Obesity is a growing problem in America – for people and their pets!

The major causes of obesity in pets, as in people, are over-feeding and not getting enough exercise. It is estimated that over 25% of pets are overweight or obese.

Health Problems & Obesity

The overweight pet is not a healthy pet. These extra pounds can cause a variety of health problems including diabetes, heart disease, respiratory problems and high blood pressure. Overweight pets have increased risk for arthritis and hip dysplasia. Obese cats can have problems grooming themselves which can lead to severe skin infections. Extra weight can make it more difficult for your veterinarian to treat health problems both medically and surgically. Keeping your pet at a healthy weight can literally add years to their life.

Your bathroom scale and your eyes are the best tools you have to determine if your pet is overweight. Your pets are considered obese if they weigh 20% or more above their optimal weight and would be called overweight if they are between their optimal weight and 20% over. The "ideal" weight for a dog is approximately the weight where the last 3 to 5 ribs are just barely visible or can be felt with a very light touch. For cats, you should be able to feel their ribs when you are stroking them, and their stomach should not have a rounded appearance. Both dogs and cats should have an "hourglass" shape to their torso, when viewed from above. It is better from a health perspective to be a little too thin than to be a little too heavy.

Prescription OM diet by Purina is specifically formulated to help pets lose weight. It is high in protein and low in carbohydrates and fat. It is a balanced diet and every batch that is made is analyzed for consistency. It even has a money back guarantee!

Bring this newsletter in for a \$10.00 coupon any size bag of Purina OM.

A Guide To Your Pet's Blood Work

blood chemistry - electrolytes - hematology

BLOOD WORK IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT FOR SENIOR PETS. Remember, early diagnosis means better disease management and prevention, and a longer, happier life for our pets.

Cholesterol (CHOL)

Elevated levels of cholesterol are seen in a variety of disorders including genetic disease, liver and kidney disease, and hypothyroidism.

Blood Glucose (GLU)

High levels can indicate diabetes. In cats, high levels can indicate stress, which can merely be a result of the trip to the veterinary hospital. Low levels indicate liver disease, infection, or certain tumors.

Phosphorus (PHOS)

Elevated levels can be an indicator of kidney disease.

Total Bilirubin (TBIL)

Bilirubin is secreted by the liver into the intestinal tract. Bilirubin levels are useful in diagnosing anemia and problems in the bile ducts.

Total Protein (TP)

The level of TP can detect a variety of conditions, including dehydration and diseases of the liver, kidney, or gastrointestinal tract.

Hematocrit (HCT)

Provides information on the amount of red blood cells (RBCs) present in the blood. A low hematocrit indicates anemia.

Complete Blood Count (CBC)

A CBC provides detailed information on red blood counts (RBCs), white blood counts (WBCs) and platelets. The total WBC and differential

(individual cell counts) can indicate infection, leukemia, stress, inflammation, or an inability to fight infection. Low platelets can indicate a bleeding problem. Surgery can be delayed if anemia, infection, or especially a low platelet count is present. These conditions can cause serious surgical complications.

Morphologic Inspection

Looking at the cells through a microscope can provide information on the type of anemia or inflammation, or other abnormalities such as leukemia.

Sodium, Potassium, Chloride (Na⁺, K⁺, Cl⁻)

The balance of these electrolytes is vital to your pet's health. Abnormal levels can be life threatening. Electrolyte testing is important in evaluating vomiting, diarrhea, dehydration and cardiac symptoms.

Urine Sample

Your pet's urine can tell you a lot about what is going on inside their body. There may be crystals or bladder stones forming that can be very painful and cause bloody urine, more frequent urination and urination in your home. Diabetes can also be detected when checking a urine sample. We recommend checking a urine sample on your pet at least twice a year unless there are changes in water consumption, increased frequency of urination or accidents, then you should have the urine checked right away.



Senior Life Stage Nutrition – Essential To Your Pet's Health!

The most important factors necessary for a long and healthy life for your pet are proper nutrition, preventive veterinary care and of course, love and attention. Far too frequently, pet owners neglect their pet's nutritional needs. **Pet foods vary greatly in quality and in satisfying a pet's unique or changing nutritional needs. That's why it's important to pay special attention to your pet's diet.**

Senior Life Stage Diet

Your pet's nutritional needs change with each life stage and life style. The nutritional requirements for a growing puppy or kitten are very different from those of a normal adult and senior pets have their own special nutritional requirements. **A high-quality diet is especially important in maintaining a strong, responsive immune system so your pet can fight off infections and make quick recoveries from illness or accidents.**

How Can I Choose a Quality Diet from the Dozens of Pet Foods on the Market?

Our professional staff can recommend a nutritional program based on your pet's age, lifestyle and health status.

For proper nutrition, your pet's diet must include the proper balance of the five basic nutrient categories for your pet's senior life stage: protein, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins, and minerals. The ratio of these categories change significantly with each life stage thus it's important to consult with your veterinarian regarding your pet's changing nutritional requirements. When reading the product's label, these items are listed in descending order of weight. The protein source normally should be first ingredient listed. The protein source will be your first clue as to the quality of the diet you are selecting.



Premium formulations will have high-quality animal meats as their protein source such as chicken, meat meal, fish meal and/or dried whole eggs. Lesser quality formulations may use plant-origin proteins such as soybeans. Pet digestive systems absorb meat proteins more efficiently than plant-origin proteins.

What Other Indicators of Food Quality Should I Look For?

Stool quality frequently is an indicator of how well your pet is digesting meals. With a premium diet, you can expect low stool volume that is firm and dark and have reduced odor. If stools are soft, loose, watery, light-colored or have an especially foul odor, you may be feeding your pet a diet that is not meeting the nutritional needs of his life stage.

What Is The Best Approach To Changing Diets?

Rapid food transitions can cause vomiting and diarrhea and sometimes your pet just may refuse to eat. When changing your pet's diet, you should always make the transition SLOWLY, over several days. Begin by adding small amounts of the new food mixed with the old. Gradually increase the ratio of the new food to old, each day.

For older pets, we recommend Purina JM Prescription diet.

It has been through clinical trials that show it improves older pets joint pain and helps cognitive function. All of our foods can be delivered to your home and ordered online.



A Frequent Senior Pet Care Question –

Can A Dental Cleaning Be Performed Without Anesthesia?

A dental cleaning performed by anyone other than your veterinarian is just cosmetic — your pet's teeth may look cleaner, **but the disease-building bacteria still lies beneath the gum line.**

A professional veterinary dental exam and cleaning differs significantly from "non-anesthetic" dental cleaning offered by a groomer or other non-professionals. It is a multi-step process that, to be accomplished properly and thoroughly, must be performed while your pet is under anesthesia.

The risk of allowing dental disease to continue untreated far outweighs the risks associated with anesthesia in all but a few, very sick patients. It is true that anesthesia cannot be 100% risk free for people or pets but it is possible to make it a very controlled, very low risk event. We utilize the best available anesthetic agents, sophisticated monitoring equipment, and a trained technician assigned to monitor each patient, to create the safest procedure possible for our anesthetized patients.

Only removing the visible tartar, often advertised as "Non-Anesthetic" dental cleanings, does your pet a great injustice by neglecting to evaluate the area where periodontal disease is most severe: **below the gum line!** Please do not allow your pet to suffer silently in pain. Dental disease is painful and can place additional demands on the heart, kidneys, and liver – shortening your pet's life and lowering his or her quality of life.