

July-August Senior Focus

Welcome to Vet Smarts new newsletter. We have decided this is a great way to stay in touch and keep all our fantastic clients updated with what is going on down at Vet Smart. Every 2 months we will be creating an educational newsletter with an exciting focus and we are starting with our seniors and their golden years.

Senior

Old age is not a disease - As a result of advances in veterinary medicine, more knowledgeable care and improved nutrition, cats and dogs are now living much longer, healthier lives. But just as for humans the passage of time has its affects, and you may begin to notice your once frisky/bouncy 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 this stage in your pets life to the fullest.

Check up time now comes twice a year – as your pet ages, regular checkups with your veterinarian become more important than ever. In fact at this stage of your pets life it is recommended that he or she has a thorough exam every 6 months. Besides the usual examination your veterinarian may conduct a urine analysis, full blood screen or x-rays.

Keep your vet informed – Most importantly, please tell your veterinarian about any noticeable changes in your pets physical condition or behaviour. A problem you may just assume is related to your pets advanced age may actually be related to a treatable medical

condition. Working together, you can both ensure that your pets senior years will be healthy and happy ones.

Healthy diet - as he or she ages your pets nutritional requirements may change. You may find that, even though your pet is eating less, they still put on weight. This can be related to the metabolism slowing down or decreased exercise. Excess weight can aggravate many medical conditions including heart, respiratory, skin and joint problems. To help your pet reduce weight, try feeding smaller quantities of food or gradually switch to a diet that is lower in calories. Sometimes you may find you have the entirely opposite problem and weight loss may be the issue – again this can be related to a medical condition. Either way it is best to seek advice from your veterinary clinic about your individual nutritional requirements.

Comfort is key – it is nice to ensure your pet is comfortable – with dogs especially, it can become uncomfortable to lean over to eat their food from their bowls – if you notice this perhaps try feeding them on a slightly higher surface, maybe you have a step that is suitable, or you may have a sturdy box you can sit your pets bowl on. You could even get an actual food stand – these are becoming popular and can be purchased at your local pet shop.





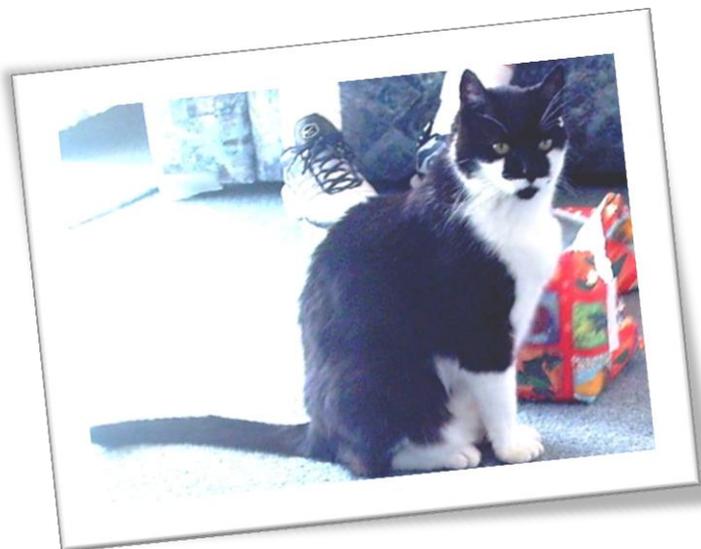
Now that winter is here, ask us about your
discounted senior health care package!

- Full physical examination
- Basic mobility evaluation
- Oral health check & dental care recommendation
- Weight assessment & nutritional advice
- Blood pressure measurement
- Senior wellness blood screen
- Urine analysis

All for ONLY \$180! (valued at \$269)

May also be eligible for discounted premium veterinary food
Other tests or treatments may be recommended at an additional cost

Smoochy Sam



This weeks featured pet is Sam, our smoochy 15 year old. Recently he came in for a visit to have his winter senior check – Sams mum was so happy she did this as it turns out Sam had undiagnosed chronic renal disease. It's great to have caught this at the earlier stage as Sam is now at home with some new delicious food (Hills Feline K/d) and is loving it. It's really great that Sams mum took advantage of our promotion because now Sam's golden years will be longer and happier. We love being able to help the oldies!

Cattery

With these freezing cold days and nights, we keep the heat pump on especially for the oldies. This is Syd one of our seniors – he loves to snuggle up on the couch under the heat pump in this cold weather.



Changes

We would like to welcome Tanith to our team. Tanith will be our newest cattery assistant. You can be rest assured your cats will be in great hands. Tanith has her animal care certificate and is wanting to become a qualified veterinary nurse also. She is very passionate about animals – especially our furry felines.

Another change here at Vet Smart is that the lovely Jen will be heading off on maternity leave on the 28th of July. We would like to wish her all the best on her new exciting journey with motherhood. We hope to see her back again sometime next year.

Did you know?

? The tallest dog in the world was Zeus who lived until he was 5 years old and measured a huge 111.8cm from foot to withers.



? Grapes, raisins and sultanas are poisonous to dogs. They can cause acute sudden onset of kidney failure.

? The oldest cat in the world is Crème Puff. She was born in 1967 and sadly passed away in 2005 making her 38 years old.

? Bones can splinter and may stick in the throat or intestine. They can also damage teeth and cause constipation.

New puppy? Do you need help?

We are planning to start up our Hill's puppy pre-school classes again. If you have a new puppy and are interested in some socialising and basic training let us know so we can fit you into our next classes!!



Avoid future behavioural problems. Ask reception for details of our Puppy Socialisation Classes!



Recommended by Veterinarians Worldwide™

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Keep us updated...

Remember if you move or change your phone number please keep us informed.

Update your cellphone and e-mail and go into the draw to win a \$50 credit on your account.

Either give us a call or send us an e-mail to go into the draw.

The winner will be drawn on the 31st of July 2015.



Clinic Hours

Monday – Friday 8am to 7pm

Saturday – 8.30am to 12.30pm

Afterhours

Although we close at 7pm each weeknight and 12.30pm on a Saturday there is always a vet available at the Wellington After Hours Veterinary Clinic. The Wellington After Hours Veterinary Clinic have full facilities so can provide full medical and surgical treatments for your pets when they are in need. They are situated at 5 McCormack Place, Ngauranga, Wellington (at the bottom of the Ngauranga Gorge). They can be contacted via phone on 04 473 7545. We recommend giving them a quick phone call before you travel there so the vet is expecting you.