



# Vets Love Pets!

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## Honouring our Veterans: November is "Senior" Pet Month

We don't like to admit it about ourselves, but as we age, our bodies start to "wear out". Pets are the same way, and their physical condition and health change over time too. It is at this stage in their lives that we should be giving them extra thoughtfulness and loving care so that they can enjoy many more years of comfort and happiness. During the month of November we are highlighting "SENIOR PETS", which raises senior pet health awareness, so that you can help your valued friend and companion live longer by working with your veterinary health-care team to maintain your pet's health and quality of life.



### At what age is my pet considered old?

The aging process varies with species, breed, size and lifestyle. The chart on the right, gives you general guidelines to determine when your pet has reached their "senior years" & this is highlighted in the grey shaded areas.

### How will I know when my pet is getting "old"?

As pet's move into the geriatric phases of their lives, they experience gradual changes that are remarkably like those of aging humans. Their hair turns grey, their bodies are not as limber and reflexes not as sharp as they once were. Hearing, eyesight and sense of smell may deteriorate and energy levels, as well as attention spans, seem to diminish. In fact, the first sign of aging is often a general decrease in activity, combined with a tendency to sleep longer and more soundly.



|              |  feline |  canine |             |      |
|--------------|--|--|-------------|------|
| Age in years | Small Breed  | Medium Breed   | Large Breed |      |
| 1            | 15   | 15   | 15          |      |
| 2            | 24   | 24   | 24          |      |
| 3            | 28   | 28   | 28          |      |
| 4            | 32   | 32   | 32          |      |
| 5            | 36   | 36   | 36          |      |
| 6            | 40   | 40   | 42          | 45   |
| 7            | 44   | 44   | 47          | 50   |
| 8            | 48   | 48   | 51          | 55   |
| 9            | 52   | 52   | 56          | 61   |
| 10           | 56   | 56   | 60          | 66   |
| 11           | 60   | 60   | 65          | 72   |
| 12           | 64   | 64   | 69          | 77   |
| 13           | 68   | 68   | 74          | 82   |
| 14           | 72   | 72   | 78          | 88   |
| 15           | 76   | 76   | 83          | 93   |
| 16           | 80   | 80   | 87          | 100+ |
| 17           | 84   | 84   | 92          |      |
| 18           | 88   | 88   | 96          |      |
| 19           | 92   | 92   | 100+        |      |
| 20           | 96   | 100+   |             |      |
| 21           | 100+   |  |             |      |



### Check-up time now comes twice a year

As your pet ages, it is more important than ever to have regular check-ups with your veterinarian. At this stage in your pet's life, it is recommended that they receive a thorough examination every 6 months, as adult cats can age as much as 4 years (in human terms) within one calendar year, and adult dogs can age as much as 3 years in the same time period.

### What other changes may I see in my pet as they get older?

As your pet ages, their body starts to wear out. The more common diseases which can occur due to age are heart disease, kidney failure, and cancer. Older dogs may develop **hypothyroidism** while older cats may develop **hyperthyroidism**. While there are many other changes that may occur, some of the more common are hearing and vision loss, dental disease, arthritis, tumors, behavioral changes and confusion and disorientation in dogs (known as canine cognitive dysfunction). These can, and do, often go unnoticed in their early stages and therefore preventative health-care is even more important.



Check-up time should now be twice a year, with a complete physical examination, blood, urine and fecal analyses which may potentially diagnose serious illnesses in the early stages allowing for more successful treatment. Remember, your pet cannot tell us when they are feeling poorly, and most pets are good at disguising pain. As always, your veterinarian and their veterinary health care team are just a phone call away to help in any way we can.

# Senior Pet Awareness Evening

Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> 7pm-9pm



As this month is officially “Senior Pet Month”, we are excited to announce that on Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> we are hosting our second annual seminar to highlight some of the more common issues in caring for senior pets. We have invited guest speakers from several leading companies in the animal healthcare industry to talk many subjects including common illness that can affect elderly pets, preventative and palliative care, symptoms to watch for, nutritional information, routine check-ups and general health tips. If you have a senior pet and would like to join us for this informative evening, then please call one of our veterinary health care team to reserve a place.

## MUTTLUKS

Winter is underway and it's time to start thinking about protecting your dogs paws so that they can enjoy walking and playing out in the cold weather. Muttluks are not just fancy footwear for canines, they provide extra comfort, protection from frostbite, salt and sand, and also durability to keep paws healthy and warm. They come in a variety of sizes and colors, so why not treat your dog to a pair -



**Your dog will paws-itively love you.**

## A Date with Santa

On Sunday, December 7th we will be opening the clinic from 10am – 4pm and would like to invite you to come in and have a special photograph of your pet taken with “Santa” which you can treasure forever. Not only will you have a wonderful keepsake, but you will also be making a charitable donation.

Local professional photographer Jill Shantz ([www.jshantzphoto.com](http://www.jshantzphoto.com)) is kindly donating her time for this event. One 5" x 7" photograph costs \$15 and any additional prints are available at a cost of \$5 per photograph. So put the date in your diary – no need to make an appointment, just drop by.



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"I'm really beginning to feel my age, Lou. Irene used the can opener today and I didn't even hear it."



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