



Watson Pet Hospital Welcomes Fall

Fall 2009

Volume 3, Issue 1

In This Issue:

- Senior Wellness
- Fall Holiday Hazards
- Feature Case
- Feature Product
- Fall 2009 Promotions
- Feature Pet

Contact Us:

<http://www.watsonpethospital.com>

Dev@watsonpethospital.com

225-665-7233



Senior Wellness:

Due to advances in medical care and the willingness of people to make pets a part of their families, the life expectancy of dogs and cats has increased dramatically over the past two decades. A recent survey by the American Veterinary Medical Association showed that about 40% of the pet population is over 7 years of age and the percentage is increasing.

The aging process is complex. It is influenced by genetics, environment, nutrition, diseases, etc. Because these factors and their effects vary widely among animals, the age at which an animal becomes "old" also varies. However, as a general rule, we detect age-related problems at a much higher rate in dogs and cats over 7 years old.



Due to that factor and to the rule of thumb that each dog or cat year translates into 5 to 10 human years (depending on breed), **we strongly encourage physical exams every 6 months on all pets and on pets over 7 years old we recommend screening tests such as complete blood count, blood chemistry, and urinalysis at least once yearly.**

Our goal for all pets is to keep them as comfortable as reasonably possible.

One of the most rapidly developing areas of research in veterinary medicine is in finding foods, food supplements, and medications to combat chronic diseases and to provide comfortable lives for older pets. The result is that many pets with changes noticed by their owners but considered to be "just old age" can benefit and become "younger" in their activities.

SENIOR WELLNESS SCREENINGS

Good health for your pet is essential for a happy, long life. Senior pets are the best. They know you well, you know them well, they are smart and seasoned and worth their weight in gold. Physical and mental changes do occur with age just as in humans. Most pet owners fail to realize that pet's age more rapidly than humans, and the gradual onset of old age problems in a previously healthy pet may be both unexpected and distressing. As our pets age, stress upon vital internal organs is likely to become more serious. Vitamin requirements generally increase, and nutritional needs differ greatly from those of younger animals. Sources of chronic infection, such as tooth and gum disease, can adversely affect internal organs and contribute to failing health. Aging also increases the risk of arthritis, disc disease, and other skeletal problems. Many of these problems are readily detectable and can be controlled if diagnosed early and treated properly. Optimum health care can add years to the life of your pet as well as substantially decrease your cost of treating medical problems associated with aging.

Feature Product:

Nolvadent Spray



The best care for your pets' teeth is to brush them daily. However, we realize that for most people brushing your pets' teeth daily is not reality. We recommend using the antiseptic, Nolvadent Spray daily to protect your pets' teeth from tartar buildup. It's easy to use and works wonders.

Fall Promotions:

October: National Pet Wellness Month

November: National Pet Diabetes Awareness Month

Does your pet experience...

Difficulty climbing stairs	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	Skin or hair coat changes	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>
Difficulty jumping up	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	Lumps or bumps	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>
Increased stiffness or limping	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	Excessive scratching	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>
Loss of housetraining	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	Changes in sleep patterns	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>
Increased thirst	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	Less enthusiastic greetings	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>
Increased urination	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	Increased appetite	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>
Changes in activity level	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	Decreased appetite	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>
Excessive panting	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	Vomiting	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>
Changes in breathing pattern	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	Change in stools	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>
Coughing	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	Problems defecating	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>
Circling or repetitive movements	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	Weight loss	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>
Confusion or disorientation	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	Weight gain	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>
Excessive barking/meowing	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	Difficulty hearing	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>
Less interaction with family	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	Vision problems	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>
Decreased responsiveness	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	Bad breath	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>

If you answered yes to any of the following questions, we should see your pet because there may be more we can do to help them.

Fall Holiday Hazards:

Your idea of Halloween fun may be ducking trick-or-treaters at home with the lights off or parading your pet in costume up and down the neighborhood streets. Either way, here are some tips compiled by the American Veterinary Medical Association to keep your cat, dog, or other animal safe during this holiday.



DO protect pets from pranks.

Don't leave animals unattended outdoors on Halloween, the day before, or the day after. Cruel pranksters can hurt your animals, especially black cats.



DON'T feed candy to animals.

Treats that are delicious for children and adults can be harmful or fatal to pets. They can choke on the wrappers, and chocolate is poisonous to dogs and cats. Put Halloween candy in scent-proof baggies, and put a lid on your candy cauldron next to the door.



DO keep pets away from lit pumpkins.

Spooky colored candles and jack o' lanterns can singe pets' noses and light fur on fire. Keep animals and lit objects apart.



DON'T put a reluctant pet in a Halloween costume.

Some cats and dogs don't mind a few Halloween accessories, but don't force an anxious animal into a constricting outfit. Make sure any Halloween clothes let your pet breathe, hear, see, and move freely.



DO license your pet early.

You can do your best to keep your pet indoors this Halloween, but your cat or dog may speed past a gaggle of candy-seeking kids into the night. Be sure you've registered your pet with the city and attached up-to-date identification tags to your pet's collar.

Feature Pet:



"Missy" Broussard

Missy is an 8-year-old rat terrier that we first met in February 2002. Recently (July 2009), Missy went through an emergency "pyometra" spay. Pyometra is the result of an infected uterus in a female, intact pet. After her emergency surgery, Missy was hospitalized with us until she was stable enough to go home. A Rat Terrier is described as an intelligent, alert, and loving dog. Very inquisitive and lively. This affectionate dog makes a great companion and we saw every one of these traits in Missy. Even through her traumatic ordeal, she was one of the most loving dogs we have had the pleasure to work with and we always look forward to our time with Missy.

The American Kennel Club recently released the names of the most popular breeds in the United States for 2008.

Check out the pooches' personality pug-shots, if you will.



DON'T mix pets and trick-or-treaters at the front door.

Cats and dogs can frighten children, and vice versa. Put your pets behind a closed door when costumed kids come knocking. This will also prevent your pet from bolting outside during the many times the front door is opened and closed.

Last, if you won't be home with the pets this Halloween, be sure they're comfortable in the house. There may be a lot of doorbell ringing, screaming children, and noises that can spook pets. Consider keeping cats and dogs in rooms in the back of the house and turning on some background noise like a radio or TV.



Thanksgiving is a great time of the year, but can be hazardous to your pets, so here are some Thanksgiving Do's and Don't's in order for you and your pet to have a great holiday.

1. Feed your pet their normal pet food and refrain from over indulging them with table scraps! The high-fat diet can cause weight gain, digestive problems and potentially life-threatening pancreatitis.
2. Watch the table! Keep food covered and away from table edges. An easier solution might also be to keep the animal out of the dining room during dinner time. This can also help curb the urge to feed them Thanksgiving treats!
3. Secure your trash!
4. Don't give your pets animal bones! This can also cause potentially life-threatening problems.
5. Keep your animal calm and unstressed while people are over. Though cheerful for people, pets can get overwhelmed from the events during the holiday season and may become snappy or stressed. To insure that your pets have a great time too, consider giving them their own space away from people, feed them out of reach of children, strangers or loud noises and take them for a nice long walk before guests arrive to help spend that energy and get them calm.
6. Watch your four-legged friends while cooking. Keep all your pets out of the kitchen and away from the hustle and bustle. Also, watch cats around open oven doors.
7. Leave your pets at home when attending holiday parades and festivities. Though floats, large balloons and crowds can be a blast for your family, they can send your dog into an anxious or even aggressive state.
8. As always, make sure your pets are wearing their collars with tags. In case someone forgets to shut the door, you want to make sure your pets are easily identifiable.

As always, Watson Pet Hospital would like to wish everyone and their pets' a fun, safe holiday season. If you have any questions at all, please call us at 225-665-7233.





#5 Beagle:

Happy-go-lucky and sociable, these comedic canines just love to make their companions smile.



#4 Golden Retriever:

Super smart and easy-going, friendly Golden Retrievers strive to satisfy.



#3 German Shepherd:

Direct and dependable, these hard-working hounds are loving and loyal.

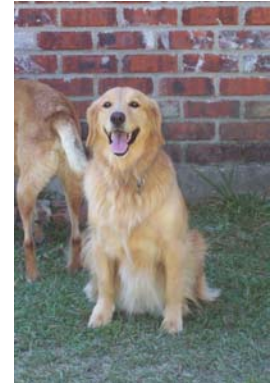


#2 Yorkshire Terrier:

Energetic and adaptable, Yorkies are driven to investigate every situation.

And the number 1 most popular breed is...

Feature Case: "Shelby"



Shelby, an eleven-year-old Golden Retriever, presented to our office on emergency for bleeding from the mouth. On initial presentation, the right side of her tongue was swollen with a "bubbled" area on the top of the tongue and bruising of the underside. Because of the swelling, Shelby was actually biting the side of her tongue, causing it to bleed. At first, it appeared that Shelby might have had a tumor affecting her tongue. A full physical examination was performed. Blood and urine samples were taken for pre-anesthetic blood work as Shelby was to be sedated for further examination of her mouth and tongue.

By the time that the blood and urine samples were taken and the physical exam was complete (less than 20 minutes), the swelling was more extensive and fluid swelling (edema) was present on the underside of the tongue. With the rapid changes to the appearance of the tongue, a tumor was less likely the cause.

An intravenous catheter was placed, and we administered intravenous corticosteroids and a benadryl injection to hopefully stop/slow down the swelling and the pet was placed under anesthesia. During placement of the endotracheal tube, which protects the airways during anesthesia, the surface of the underside of her tongue sloughed (basically, the top surface rubbed off).

Due to the to the rapid changes, Dr. Newfield suspected that this was some type of venomous bite (snake, spider). Under sedation, no foreign body could be located. We cleaned her mouth out with an antiseptic solution and ice packed the affected area. Shelby was kept under anesthesia for approximately 30 minutes to monitor the swelling, which did not progress any further. Shelby was also given intravenous antibiotics and pain medication.

Shelby recovered from anesthesia without any complications. She was sent home on oral antibiotics and anti-inflammatory medication. Once home, Shelby's owners noticed that Shelby's housemate had a slightly swollen muzzle with two puncture wounds on her nose. This confirmed the diagnosis of a snakebite.

In the days following the bite, Shelby's tongue healed rapidly and she is doing much better.

Case discussion: Both Drs. Apple and Newfield have seen venomous snakebites in the past; however, neither had seen one actually on the tongue. After checking with colleagues in the area and around the country, they have discovered that other veterinarians have seen similar cases. Typically, pets that



#1 Labrador Retriever:

Intelligent and eager to please, this gentle dog easily wins people over.

This year, show your neighbors just how much you love your pet! Visit the following website to print free downloadable pet stencils for your pumpkin carvings this year.

<http://www.bhg.com/holidays/halloween/pumpkin-carving/pumpkin-carving-stencils-of-favorite-dogs/>



have been bitten by a snake present with swollen muzzles or limbs. There is typically a lot of bruising in the area in addition to extensive swelling. There tends to be some sloughing of the skin in the area in the days following the bite as the venom kills the surrounding tissue. Snakes naturally have a lot of bacteria in their mouth and snakebite victims require strong antibiotics to prevent extensive infections.

Snakebites, or suspected snakebites, are considered an emergency. While some pets only have local effects of snakebites (swelling, bruising), others do have systemic effects (affecting the entire body). Disseminate Intravascular Coagulation (DIC) is a rapidly progressing condition that can result from a snakebite and is fatal if not treated promptly and aggressively. Normally, when an injury occurs, certain proteins in the blood become activated and travel to the injury site to help stop bleeding. However, with DIC, these proteins become abnormally active.

Small blood clots form within the blood vessels. Some of these clots can clog up the vessels and cut off blood supply to various organs such as the liver or kidney. These organs will then stop functioning. Over time, the clotting proteins become "used up." When this happens, the patient is then at risk for serious bleeding from even a minor injury. This disorder can result in clots or, more often, in bleeding, and the bleeding can be severe.

Watson Pet Hospital is teaming up to help Live Oak Elementary's 4-H Club to collect food and supplies for pets in need. Drop by any unwanted or unused food, treats, leashes, collars, food bowls, etc. at our office anytime. Any donation is greatly appreciated!



FROM THE WATSON PET HOSPITAL FAMILY TO YOURS, HAVE A WONDERFUL AND SAFE FALL HOLIDAY SEASON!