

SENIOR PETS

PET CARE SHEET

Pets, like their owners, are prone to age related diseases in later life. Older (over 7) dogs and cats experience heart disease, arthritis, poorly functioning organs (especially liver and kidney) dental problems and cancers.

The main signs of these problems are:

Stiffness, lameness, difficulty with steps and reluctance to exercise

Poor coat

Reduced appetite

Obesity (overweight)

Incontinence

Dental disease

The ageing process cannot be stopped but it can be slowed down.

Give careful consideration to your pet's diet – overweight animals can have a reduced calorie diet, and most animals over 7 will benefit from a “senior diet” e.g. Hills Senior which is formulated to reduce heart and organ deterioration.

Stiffness, is often a sign of arthritis and inflammation of the joints, and indicates that your pet may be in pain. See also our downloadable information sheet “ Arthritis in dogs and cats” Diagnosis of arthritis is often possible by examination only although sometimes x-rays are required. Joint problems are worse in overweight dogs and while gentle daily exercise will usually be recommended a reduced calorie diet may also be advisable. A number of products are available to alleviate the pain associated with arthritis thus improving mobility and enabling the animal to lead a more active life.

In dogs a reduced appetite, poor coat, lethargy, confusion and urinary incontinence may be treated with VIVITONIN, which improves blood supply to brain, heart and muscles. Most dogs respond in about 2 weeks but occasionally up to 6 weeks treatment is required.

Brain ageing is a natural process largely resulting from cell damage caused by free radicals.

Free radicals are produced by the body's own natural processes. Signs of brain ageing include disorientation, loss of house training, change to sleep pattern (the pet may wander around the house at night) and lethargy (the pet is less active and may not want to play). Animals showing any of these signs may benefit from feeding with Hills Canine B/D which contains a high level of vitamins, minerals, L carnitine and fatty acids, which are clinically proven to combat free radicals and promote healthy cells.

WE RECOMMEND THAT ALL SENIOR PETS HAVE REGULAR HEALTH CHECKS AND WE NOW HAVE REGULAR FREE NURSE CLINICS AT BOTH NORTHFLEET AND NEW ASH GREEN

The Shrubbery Veterinary Centre, 65 Perry Street, Northfleet, Kent, DA11 8RD

Tel: 01474 534891/333141 & 5 The Link New Ash Green Tel: 01474 873370