



Paw Prints Monthly

September 2011

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Liberty Veterinary Hospital strives to create a state-of-the-art pet care facility that meets all of our clients' & pets' needs from nutritional supplies, boarding and grooming to the highest level of medical and surgical care. Because our team can only be as good as the sum of its parts, we nurture and educate our staff so that we may all provide uncompromising service, compassion, kindness and caring for each patient as a member of our own family.

SEPTEMBER IS SENIOR WELLNESS MONTH

Did You Know ...

- We offer dog obedience class recommendations
- We offer boarding and laser surgery
- We offer massage and rehabilitation therapy
- We offer *free* educational seminars
- We really look forward to visiting with you and your pet! Ask us about Exotics!

OUR HOURS:

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. 7:30am - 7pm
 Wed 7:30am - 6pm
 Sat 8:00am - 2pm
 Sun Closed

Liberty Veterinary Hospital offers a number of services that senior pets can benefit from:

Senior Wellness Plan*

A preventative health maintenance plan for older pets that includes a complete physical exam and a series of non-invasive tests at a discounted group price. Early intervention is key to detecting any problems.

Massage Therapy*

When recommended by your doctor, a Certified Animal Massage Therapist can provide pain management and improved healing time.

VIP Packages for Boarding*

Offers extra pampering and attention to *any* pet boarding 4 days or more, but especially beneficial to older pets who would enjoy our elevated beds. (ask us about availability)

*Brochures available

You can't turn back the clock. But you can wind it up again.
~Bonnie Prudden

By sharing life and love with you, your pet has given you a precious gift. Now that your pet is considered a senior citizen, you can give your pet something in return—the special care that makes the golden years happy and healthy. ** There are a growing number of ways we can help "wind the clock" and promote healthy, long lives for our senior dogs.

Several non-invasive tests, ultrasounds and other procedures performed regularly can help us detect early-stage disease when control or even prevention is possible and more cost effective. Semi annual exams are recommended for all pets, but are especially important for senior pets. For a dog, 6 months can be comparable to as many as 5 to 8 years in the life of a human. Senior Wellness Exams provide a baseline from which we can measure changes. These include:

- Physical Examination
- Dental Examination
- Complete Blood Chemistry
- Bladder function
- Thyroid test
- Chest X-Rays
- Heart check up
- Kidney function



Ultrasound examinations provide a wonderful, non-invasive way to diagnose a variety of health problems in our pet patients. Ultrasound examinations will be helpful to your pet if there is a difficult to diagnose health problem. We have already found several health problems we could then correct when ultrasound examinations were added as part of a routine senior wellness examination – even when the pet was otherwise apparently healthy. Dr. Gossett will be performing the majority of our ultrasound exams. She has been performing them for many years and has had extensive training in AVMA – certified training courses and one on one training with experts in the field of ultrasound imaging.

The goal of a Senior Wellness Exam is to maintain the highest quality of life for the longest possible time. Together, we can make the senior years the most rewarding you and your pet have ever shared.**

Amy Johnstone, DVM * Robyn Collins, DVM * Holly Gossett, DVM

* firstline magazine.

** Antech Diagnostics

How old your pet might be in human years:

Dogs

Age	0-20lbs	21-50lbs	51-90lbs	91 +lbs
1	7	7	8	9
2	13	14	16	18
3	20	21	24	26
4	26	27	31	34
5	33	34	38	41
6	40	42	45	49
7	44	47	50	56
8	48	51	55	64
9	52	56	61	71
10	56	60	66	78
11	60	65	72	86
12	64	69	77	93
13	68	74	82	101
14	72	78	88	108
15	76	83	93	115
16	80	87	99	123
17	84	92	104	131
18	88	96	109	139
19	92	101	115	
20	96	105	120	
21	100	109	126	
22	104	113	130	
23	108	117		
24	112	120		
25	116	124		

Cats

Age	0-20lbs	Age	0-20lbs
1	7	12	64
2	13	13	68
3	20	14	72
4	26	15	76
5	33	16	80
6	40	17	84
7	44	18	88
8	48	19	92
9	52	20	96
10	56	21	100
11	60	22	104

Senior Pet Checklist - What to Watch For

Call your veterinarian if you notice any of the following behaviors in your pet:

- Sustained, significant increase in water consumption or urination
- Sudden weight loss or gain
- Significant decrease in appetite or failure to eat for more than two days
- Significant increase in appetite
- Repeated vomiting
- Diarrhea lasting over three days
- Difficulty in passing stool or urine
- Change in housebreaking
- Lameness lasting more than five days or lameness in more than one leg
- Noticeable decrease in vision
- Open sores or scabs on the skin that persist for more than one week
- Foul mouth odor or drooling that lasts more than two days
- Increasing size of the abdomen
- Decreasing activity or increased amount of time spent sleeping
- Hair loss, especially if accompanied by scratching or if in specific areas (as opposed to generalized)
- Excessive panting
- Inability to chew dry food
- Blood in stool or urine
- Sudden collapse or bout of weakness
- A seizure (convulsion)
- Persistent coughing or gagging
- Breathing heavily or rapidly while at rest



At what age is a pet considered senior? Generally, smaller breeds of dogs live longer than larger breeds, and cats live longer than dogs. Beyond that, the life span will vary with each individual, and your veterinarian will be able to help you determine what stage of life your friend is in. Keep in mind that some small dog breeds may be considered senior at 10-13 years, while giant breeds are classified as seniors at ages as young as five.