

The Paws and Claws Quarterly

West Ashley and Northwoods
Veterinary Clinics



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CARING FOR YOUR GERIATRIC ANIMAL

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“Mittens”, owned by Northwoods Vet Clinic

With advances in veterinary medicine over the years, pets today are living longer and longer lives. Unfortunately, as they become older they are at a higher risk for a variety of health issues and there may be more that is required of you as a pet owner to ensure that they are in the best of health. At our clinic, we consider animals over the age of 8 to be geriatric. As your pet approaches this age and beyond, there are a few things you should be observing a little more closely as they can be key indicators of common geriatric health problems. These things include:

- **Urination (any increase or decrease in frequency or amount)**
- **Appetite/Thirst (any increase or decrease)**
- **Activity level**

- **Weight gain or loss**
- **Changes in respiration (out of breath, panting frequently)**
- **General mood/attitude**
- **Changes in skin/hair coat**
- **Growths or lumps**

Certain symptoms or changes in behavior can indicate a variety of health issues, including diabetes, arthritis, dental disease, thyroid disease, cancer, and diseases of major organs such as the kidneys, liver, and heart. Because these health problems can arise before any symptoms start, we now draw blood for basic labwork at your geriatric pet’s yearly visits. This bloodwork tests the function of many major organs such as the liver and kidneys and can determine whether your pet is in the early stages of certain diseases that are more common in older animals, which can possibly make treatment easier and less invasive. If tests are



“Simba”, owned by the Joseph family

normal, we are able to give you peace of mind by having ruled out many common geriatric diseases. If you notice any changes in your animal, please call us and we will be glad to see your pet. The geriatric animal requires a bit more attention from all of us and it is as important to us as it is to you to make sure your pet stays happy and healthy throughout its years as your loyal friend!



HEARTWORM PREVENTION: WHY SO IMPORTANT?

- Heartworms are a deadly disease transmitted by mosquitoes. Here in Charleston, mosquitoes run rampant and the risk of your dog or cat getting heartworms if not on prevention is very high.
- Treatment for heartworm disease in dogs is very expensive and painful. In cats, there is no treatment so once they get them they will most likely die from them.
- Heartworm preventatives also include protection against intestinal worms like roundworms and hookworms, which can cause your pet to become very ill. These worms can also be transmitted to humans, especially children, so it is important to keep up with monthly prevention to ensure your pet never gets these worms.

See page 2 for information on ProHeart, the 6-month heartworm injection available now!



PROHEART: THE 6-MONTH HEARTWORM INJECTION

Heartworm disease is an important health concern in both dogs and cats. This disease, which is transmitted by mosquitoes, causes serious health problems and can eventually lead to death. There are many medications available today to prevent your pet from getting heartworms; most of these medications are administered monthly in the form of oral tablets or substances applied topically. Now there is another option for dogs that puts your veterinarian in control of administering the prevention. Proheart, an injection for



heartworm prevention that lasts six months, is available at our clinic. It is injected under the skin of your dog and along with preventing heartworm disease, it protects your dog from intestinal parasites such as roundworms and hookworms.

In order for your dog to receive this injection, it is required to perform basic bloodwork to check major organ function like the liver and kidneys, as well as evaluate your pet's heartworm status. This can be done along with your pet's yearly visit or can be scheduled as a separate appointment. This injection also cannot be given within 30 days of your animal receiving vaccinations. If you decide you are interested in



"Sky", owned by Lesley Robb

Proheart at your dog's yearly visit, we can draw blood for the labwork needed and call you when the results come in, which is usually the next day, then call you in one month to let you know it is time to come in for the injection. From then on, you will continue coming to the clinic every 6 months for the injections.

If you tend to be forgetful about monthly heartworm prevention or would just prefer the convenience of a six-month injection, Proheart is the right choice for your dog!



***Visit www.proheart6.com for

NEW WEIGHT-LOSS DRUG FOR DOGS

Across America, veterinary clinics are seeing more and more obese animals. Many pet owners equate food with love and therefore give their pets many more calories than are needed. Obesity can lead to several serious health issues, including arthritis and other orthopedic problems, heart and liver disease, diabetes, and cancer.



In order to help prevent

these issues in dogs, Pfizer Animal Health has come out with a new weight-loss drug called Slentrol. Slentrol is an oral liquid medication given to dogs once a day for a period of no more than a year. It works as an appetite suppressant, making the dog feel full with less food, so the pet owner does not have to limit the amount of food offered while on Slentrol. This drug is aimed at getting the dog to a healthy weight while also teaching the owner how little food

the dog really needs, at which point the owner takes over the responsibility of maintaining their dog's healthy body condition through proper diet and exercise.

This medication is for dogs only and can be prescribed at our clinic with a general exam.

Visit www.SLENTROL.com for more details.

THE FACTS ABOUT MICROCHIPPING

10 million pets get lost every year. It is estimated that 1 in 3 pets will become lost during its lifetime. Without a form of identification, 90% of them do not return home. Microchipping is a permanent means of identification. At our clinic, we use microchips from HomeAgain, a company that has been responsible for reuniting over 400,000 lost dogs and cats with their owners.

The microchip is a small device about the size of a grain of rice that is implanted under your pet's skin between its shoulder blades in the form of a

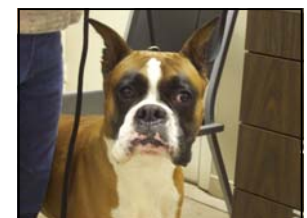
one-time injection. After being microchipped, you and your pet's info will be entered into the HomeAgain database; you can change any contact information in the future by going onto their website or phoning them. If your pet gets lost or runs away and ends up at any shelter or clinic across the coun-



try, he/she will be scanned for a microchip. This scanner will read their specific chip number, which will be traced back to you. You will be notified that your pet has been found and you will be reunited.

Almost 4 million pets are euthanized

every year because their owners cannot be found in time. Microchipping saves lives and dramatically increases the chances of your lost pet being returned to you. Schedule an appointment to have your pet microchipped today!



"Floyd", owned by Peggy Otto

Additional info at HomeAgain.com

