



NEWSLETTER

Issue 41

June 2016

Welcome to our June newsletter. The colder weather is here and this is a good time to give our older pets some TLC. If you have a pet over the age of 7 years, take advantage of our Senior Health Month.

The Lake Veterinary Hospitals are excited to be able to offer our valued clients and their pets the latest innovation and research in a cancer treatment trial.

Did you know that cats just like dogs get arthritis as they get older. The signs can be more subtle, but just as important to manage. Turn over for more information.

Senior Health Month



Did you know that if your pet is over 7 years old they are called **seniors**?

In June, The Lake Veterinary Hospitals are running a **Senior Health Examination**

Program. Early detection and treatment can assure longevity and quality of your pet's life. Last year many pets benefited from the program ensuring a longer and happier life.

As your pet gets older you may notice some of the following signs:

- Not wanting to walk as far
- Trouble getting up from laying down
- Reluctance to jump up
- Drinking excessively
- Deafness
- Vision impairment
- Weight loss
- Coughing
- Foul smelling breath

If you are noticing any of these signs it is best to bring your pet in for a check up. We are offering **Senior Health Examinations**, which includes:

- Consultation
- Blood screening to check body function
- Urine testing
- Arthritis checks
- Eyesight and hearing checks
- Nail trim
- Dental examination
- Heart health checks
- Diet analysis

All of this has been packaged, for a total cost of \$190 (saving you over \$100).

Please call to book your pet in for their **Senior Health Examination.**

We look forward to seeing you and your pet soon.

Cats Get Arthritis Too

Studies show that arthritis in cats is far more common than owners expect, with many elderly cats showing radiographic evidence of arthritis in the limb joints. Many of us don't recognise the



symptoms in our feline companions as we just simply think they slow down and get tired

as they get older.

One of the very early signs is that the cat stops jumping up on benches, and sometimes not even onto beds anymore, and just 'slows down'.

Typically, as the disease progresses, the cat stops grooming along its back and base of the tail because it is uncomfortable to reach there.

Eventually cats become very grumpy and immobile.

Other signs include:

- An inability to jump up and play as they once did
- Change of resting locations
- Difficulty going up or down stairs
- Difficulty using the litter tray
- Difficulty going in or out of the cat flap
- Becoming stiff after resting
- Difficulty grooming, poor coat condition
- Not accessing the food bowl as often, possibly weight loss
- Less exercise, not using scratching post, overgrown nails
- Less interaction with other pets or owners
- Aggressive behaviour when being approached, touched or moved (due to pain).

Management of arthritis in cats

Medications like the anti-inflammatory liquid meloxicam and a course of pentosan which is 4 weekly injections can be very effective at controlling the pain and inflammation associated with arthritis. Never give human painkillers, such as aspirin, nurofen and paracetamol as these can be very lethal to cats. If you have any concerns about your cats mobility please make an appointment to see one of our friendly veterinarians and help your cat feel more comfortable.



Staff Pet Profile

This is Nellie who is owned by our Practice Manager, Jane. Nellie loves her early morning walks and chasing her throw toy.



Going Green!

This year we are adopting some green initiatives! These will include email and mobile phone text reminders to replace the current snail mail. The success of this relies on updating these personal details on your files. Your patience and help in gaining this information initially is appreciated!