

Signs that your beloved pet is getting older

As dogs and cats get older, slowing down and not wanting to exercise, play and jump as much this could be a sign of arthritis. There is a lot we can do to help you to manage this condition and help them lead a comfortable life in their twilight years.



IS YOUR PET SLOWING DOWN AND NOT WANTING TO PLAY AS MUCH?

It may be a simple case of helping with weight loss so there is less weight for their joints to carry around, advising on exercise plans / physio or hydrotherapy, discussing nutraceuticals or pain medication. Don't be concerned about bringing your older pet to see us. We want to help you to manage their condition, not just tell you they are old!!

IS YOUR OLDER CAT LOSING WEIGHT BUT EATING YOU OUT OF HOUSE AND HOME?

If the answer is yes they could have an overactive thyroid gland (hyperthyroidism) this is one of the most common hormonal disorders in older cats. Common signs include

- weight loss
- increase in appetite
- vomiting or diarrhoea
- behavioural changes
- poor coat quality
- increased heart and breathing rate

This condition is easily diagnosed by a full clinical examination and a blood sample by a veterinary surgeon.

Is it treatable? YES

There are various treatment options available including diet, tablets, liquid medications, ear gels, surgery, radioactive iodine.

HAVE YOU NOTICED A BAD SMELL FROM YOUR PETS MOUTH?

This could be a sign of dental disease. As pets get older dental disease can become a problem and as animals are living longer this is now a big part of our veterinary care. Signs that you may notice

- smelly breath (halitosis)
- weight loss
- reluctance to eat
- rubbing the mouth due to pain
- bleeding gums
- drooling

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