

St Bernards Buzz

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Senior Pet Care

Age-appropriate Diets

As a general rule, most dogs are considered senior by age seven, or half of their life expectancy. Cats, however, are considered to be elderly once they reach 11 years of age.

Our pets unfortunately age much quicker than us - it's easy to forget. This means that our seniors and geriatrics need a lower calorie diet to help prevent obesity as well as a high fibre diet to help aid digestion and overall gastrointestinal

health as they age. It is very important to maintain a healthy weight range for our pets to help promote overall health and wellbeing throughout their lives from the very start right up until the very end.

What Diet Would Best Suit my Senior Pet?

When it comes to choosing the right diet for your pet, there are many factors that could change the recommended specific diet required to cater to your pet's dietary needs. The best thing to do is to call our helpful team and organise a veterinary physical assessment to better evaluate your pet's overall health and therefore allowing us to recommend the best diet according to multiple factors including body condition score and current medical history. We have a large range of senior diets to select from.

Phone us if you have any questions about your senior pet, as we will be able to give you the best advice. 8364 4545



Oscar



17 and a 1/2 years young and living life to the fullest!

Senior Wellness Checks - \$20 Discount

Extended Offer throughout July

Let us help you to keep your pet as healthy, active and comfortable as possible and to ensure that you both enjoy your pet's life to the fullest.

As a special offer we are giving a \$20 discount off the price of blood testing for our seniors who visit for a wellness check.

Patient of the Month

Tinkerbelle



Our special patient this month is Tinkerbelle – a very sweet older lady who visited us for her regular health check and to have her vaccinations updated. Her mum mentioned she was having trouble walking – given that she is a senior the assumption was that she was a little arthritic. We put Tinkerbelle at the top of the stairs in the cat room to assess how well she coped with stairs – and she didn't. She was struggling to even walk, and certainly wasn't able to navigate the stairs, which is very unusual for a cat. What we noticed is that she was walking with very flat feet – what we call a plantigrade stance, her ankles and wrists were contacting the ground as she walked and she didn't have good strength or co-ordination.

Diabetes can sometimes cause a strange side effect in cats which affects the nerve function and causes cats to have a plantigrade stance. With that in mind we ran a comprehensive blood test and completed a full neurological examination. Tinkerbelle was confirmed as having diabetes mellitus, which was the cause of her walking and balance problems.

We started her on insulin to manage her diabetes – her family is doing an amazing job with her diabetes management and she is starting to get some strength back in her legs.

Cats are very unique creatures in many ways, and Diabetic Polyneuropathy is one of the really weird disease syndromes that they get.

We will keep you posted with Tinkerbelle's progress.

