

Does your pet have itchy or sensitive skin?

Health
Tip #1



Depending on the severity of the symptoms we may advise a consult with a veterinarian but there are many tools to help manage this chronic condition.

Medicated shampoos, omega 3 supplements, a diet of prescription skin foods, and stringent flea control can all help ease the itch – speak to us about a solution for your pet.



Health tip
#2

Is your pet a *pensioner*?

Gerontology (*the care of the aged*)

Older pets do not handle **change** or **stress** well. They are less tolerant of **hot** and **cold** weather. They need opportunities to **relieve themselves** more frequently and **more rest** periods during exercise. They are **more dependent on you** to compensate for their **poor vision, hearing loss and limited locomotion**. Senior dogs and cats also rarely **groom** themselves as well as they once did. All these things (and more) need to be taken into consideration when you are planning to care for your elderly pet.

There are **treatments** available for many of the problems of old age to correct, manage or at least slow down the process but, although we dream of cure, there are no cures. Veterinarians can only determine what the **most important health issues** are in your pet and treat them to **maximize your pet's *quality of life* and *life expectancy***.



Ask us about our “*geriatric check-up*” that is designed to detect the common health hazards of old age, as well as give you advice on all aspects of caring for your senior pet.



Health tip
#3

Does your pet have a **weight problem?**




All excuses aside ... excessive weight in an otherwise **healthy** pet is a direct result of **consuming unnecessary amounts of food**. If your pet is overweight it should be examined for **thyroid** or other metabolic disorders and a detailed history should be taken with emphasis on **frequency of exercise** and **amount and type of food** being provided.

As in people, pets carrying extra weight place extra demands on virtually all the organs of their bodies. When we overload these organs, disease and sometimes death are the consequences. The **health risks** to overweight dogs are **serious** and include conditions such as **Arthritis, Diabetes Mellitus, Heart Disease** and many more.

Speak to us to help you identify your overweight pet and get him/her back in shape.





Health tip
#4

Does your pet have smelly breath?



It is a common mistake to believe that “**doggy breath**” or “**tuna breath**” is something to be expected in our pets but most often **bad breath** is caused by **dental or gum disease**. There can be **other causes** of bad breath (such as kidney failure) and so a thorough physical examination is a necessary part of the diagnostic protocol. A **detailed oral exam** may require a short anaesthetic, this would then also allow us to do dental radiographs.

One of the dangers of lack of dental care is **infection** spreading to other areas of the body. Bacteria that surround infected teeth continuously break off into the pet’s bloodstream and lodge in other organs such as the heart valves, kidneys, and liver. The infection can also cause **pain** in the mouth resulting in a poor appetite.

Speak to us about options for **at-home preventative care** such as brushing your pets teeth or oral care diets. Or book an appointment with one of our vets or vet nurses to check whether your pet needs a dental.

Being proactive about your pets oral health is smart preventative medicine and will make your life together more pleasant.

