



# Best Friends Veterinary Group Newsletter

AUTUMN 2012

## Caring for the Aging Pet

**Cats and dogs age much quicker than humans as you can see by the charts below. For example a seven year old West Highland Terrier is actually in its 40's in dog years.**

Just like us, as they reach their senior years, they become more prone to common conditions and diseases such as arthritis, diabetes, heart disease, liver disease and many forms of cancer. As owners, it is important that we look for the signs of aging so that we can ensure that our pets can enjoy their older years to their full potential.

### Decreased Mobility

Many owners put a lack of enthusiasm for walks or general inactivity down to their pet getting on a bit; however there can be many reasons for this. Joint pain due to arthritis, damage or

excess weight can see a noticeable reduction in a pet's activity level or surprisingly it can also be a sign of senility.

### Weight Gain

As with humans, as animals get older, their nutritional needs change. The amount of calories an older pet requires reduces both once they are neutered, as well as when they get older. However weight gain can also be a sign that something more serious is wrong or can aggravate other conditions such as joint problems and so it is well worth keeping in check.

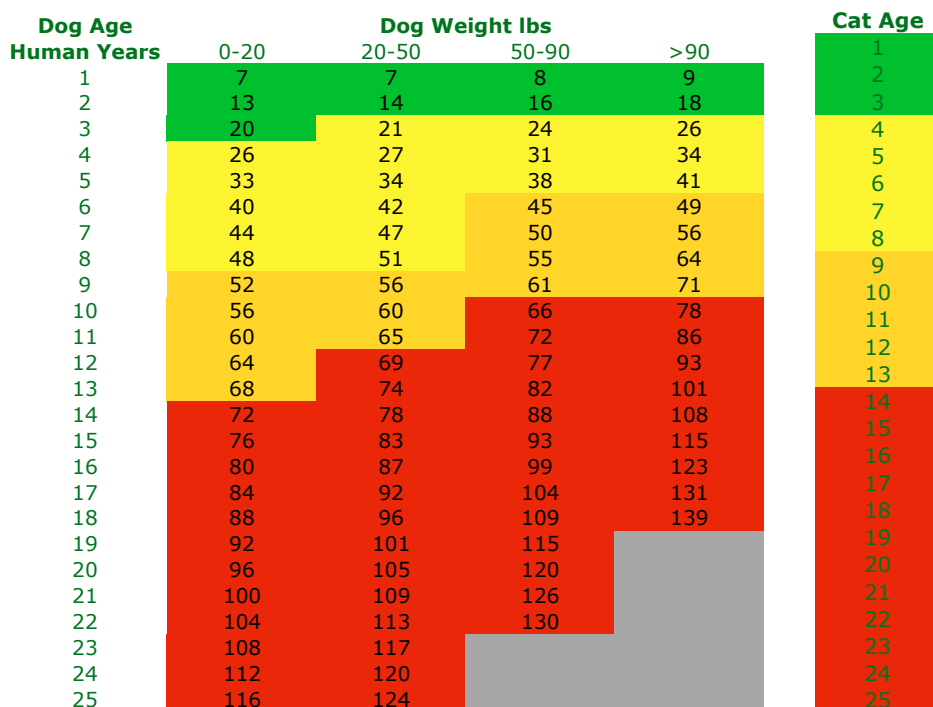
### Change to Body Condition

An animals' skin, teeth and oral health can deteriorate with age. These issues can benefit from the addition of certain supplements or treatment and make a huge difference to an animals'



quality of life – after all, no one wants to walk around with toothache or itchy, sore skin.

So if you notice any of the above signs in your senior pet/s, book an appointment at your local Vets as we have the knowledge and tools to identify problems and discuss a suitable treatment plan if necessary. This could be as simple as a change to your pet's diet and/or exercise routine, but could take years off your pet's behaviour.



### Colour Key

- Infant
- Adult
- Senior
- Geriatric

## Special Offers

### Rabbit Awareness Week

Book your free Rabbit Health Check during Rabbit Awareness Week between 15th – 22nd September

### Geriatric Pet Checkup

Sept – Nov we are offering a Geriatric Pet Checkup for pets over 6 yrs old that will include a Pet MOT, full health check tailored to the older pet, plus a free cat or dog treat. All for the same price as a Pet MOT – that's just £27.50!

# Pet MOT's for Older Pets

**Here at Best Friends we recommend our Pet MOT annually as part of your pet's preventative care from the age of 5yrs for cats or 5-7yrs for dogs (dependant on their weight). A Pet MOT can alert our Veterinary team to what our pets aren't or can't tell us, enabling us to catch the early warning signs or initial stages of many manageable conditions such as diabetes, kidney disease etc...**

We can detect conditions before your pet may even be showing symptoms/clinical signs and just as with human, earlier diagnosis usually means a better prognosis.

The tests involved in our Pet MOT are quick and non invasive. A Vet performs a general health check which includes assessing your pets eyes, heart, teeth, weight and body condition. They may discuss your pet's eating habits and lifestyle, as well as being happy to advise you on any other areas of pet care.

A blood and a urine sample will also be taken. The urine sample will be analysed in house, however the blood

## Surgery Numbers

Billericay	01277 651009	Peterborough, Broadway	01733 562904
Chatteris	01354 692309	Rainham	01708 555788
Dagenham	0208 595 5818	Romford	01708 762266
Holbech	01406 426222	South Woodham Ferrers	01245 321717
Isle of Dogs	0207 536 7555	Shenfield	01277 221193
Leicester	01162 517677	Sawtry	01487 830595
March	01354 653435	Thrapston	01832 731731
Mile End	0207 790 4599	Whittlesey	01733 208090
Milton Keynes	01908 270144	Yaxley	01733 243000
Oakham	01572 770011		
Oakhill	0208 527 0034		

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sample will be sent away to a specialist laboratory and the results will be given to you usually within the same week.

We believe so strongly in the importance and benefits of senior pets having Pet MOTs, that we have heavily discounted the cost to our clients to only £27.50. That's over 75% discount as these tests would usually cost more than £100!!

## Best Friends Pet MOT



Our Pet MOT's include a general health check:

- Teeth - Eyes - Heart
- Weight - Diet & General Advice

Plus a blood test and a urine test, both with full analysis.

Only  
£27.50