

# 七VERVET

Your pet, your family, always.

#### **Evervet Prahran**

682 Malvern Road
Prahran Vic 3181

<u>prahran@evervet.vet</u>

03 9510 1335

Mon to Fri 7:30am-11pm

Saturday 9am-4pm

Sunday 10am-12pm

#### **Evervet South Yarra**

66 Toorak Road
South Yarra Vic 3141
southyarra@evervet.vet
03 9510 1335
Mon to Fri 8am-7pm
Saturday 9am-4pm
Sunday Closed

#### **Evervet East Melbourne**

1229 Hoddle Street

East Melbourne Vic 3002

eastmelbourne@evervet.vet
03 9415 8288

Mon to Fri 8:30am-6:30pm

Saturday 9am-12pm

Sunday Closed

It's our firm view that the senior years of our pet's lives represent the most important in our journey together.

# HOHEN BINGS

We're committed to ensuring that our patients are able to approach their senior years "Pawsitively".

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# WHAT'S YOUR PET'S AGE?

>41kg



TS <sup>1</sup>	D	OGS <sup>2</sup>
Age in Human Years	Current Age	≤9kg

Current Age	Age in Human Years	Current Age	Age in Human Years ≤9kg 9-22kg 23-41kg			
6 months	10	1 year	15	15	15	
1 year	15	2 years	24	24	24	
2 years	24	3 years	28	28	30	
3 years	28	4 years	32	33	35	
4 years	32	5 years	36	37	40	
5 years	36	6 years	40	42	45	
6 years	40	7 years	44	47	50	
7 years	44	8 years	48	51	55	
8 years	48	9 years	52	56	61	
9 years	52	10 years	56	60	66	
10 years	56	11 years	60	65	72	
11 years	60	12 years	64	69	77	
12 years	64	13 years	68	74	82	
13 years	68	-	72	78	88	
14 years	72	14 years				
15 years	76	15 years	76	83	93	
16 years	80	16 years	80	87	99	
17 years	84	17 years	84	92	104	
18 years	88	18 years	88	96	109	
19 years	92	19 years	92	101	115	
20 years	96	20 years	96	105	120	
21 years	100					

### DID YOU KNOW?

Cats and small dogs are typically considered a senior at the age of 8, while larger dogs are usually considered a senior when they're 5 or 6 years old, though it varies by the pet.

# HOW DO I KEEP MY SENIOR PET HEALTHY?



# We believe you know your pet best...

#### INCREASED VETERINARY CARE

Senior pets need to see a veterinarian twice a year or more so signs of illness or other problems can be found and treated early, before they become bigger problems. These exams may include dental care, bloodwork, and specific checks for signs of aging-related diseases.

#### **DIET AND NUTRITION**

Senior pets often need foods that are more easily digested, provide different energy levels and ingredients, and contain anti-aging nutrients.

#### **WEIGHT CONTROL**

Weight gain in senior dogs increases the risk of health problems, whereas weight loss is a bigger concern for senior cats.

#### **PARASITE CONTROL**

Senior pets' immune systems aren't as strong as those of younger pets. As a result, senior pets may not be able to fight off parasites or heal as fast.

#### **VACCINATION**

A weaker immune system means senior pets also might have different vaccination needs than younger pets.

#### **MAINTAINING MOBILITY**

Pets can become less active with age. Keeping senior pets active through appropriate exercise helps them stay healthier and more mobile.

#### **MENTAL HEALTH**

Senior pets can show signs of senility or cognitive dysfunction. Stimulating them through interactions can help keep them mentally active.

#### **ENVIRONMENT**

Senior pets may need changes in their lifestyle, such as new sleeping areas to avoid stairs, more time indoors, etc.

...and we're here to help.



# WHAT SHOULD I LOOK OUT FOR?

It's easy to spot a few grey hairs but what else could be happening to your senior pet?

#### **CHANGES IN ACTIVITY**

If your pet is starting to avoid active playing or running or if they have trouble with daily activities such as jumping up on their favorite chair, they may have arthritis. A pet with arthritis may also show irritation when touched and may seem more depressed or grouchy.

There may be other reasons for these changes; so a thorough examination is often required. We can help tailor an arthritis management plan for your pet which may contain therapeutics, exercise modification, rehabilitation exercises, and simple changes in your home such as orthopedic pet beds, raised feeding platforms, stairs and ramps.

#### **CHANGES IN BEHAVIOUR**

Behaviour changes in your pet can serve as the first indicators of aging. These changes might be due to discomfort or pain or worsening sight or hearing, but they may also be due to the normal aging process. Some behaviour changes in older pets may be due to cognitive dysfunction, similar to senility in people.

If you are concerned about any behaviour changes, we can email you a questionnaire to help assess if any treatment may be required for your pot

#### **WEIGHT LOSS OR GAIN**

Weight change can have a tremendous effect on an older pet's health. Obesity in pets increases the risk of arthritis, difficulty breathing, diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, skin problems, cancer and other conditions. Your vet can help track your pet's weight and recommend a proper diet and suggest other steps to help your pet maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Sudden weight loss in an older pet is also a source for concern, especially in cats.
Hyperthyroidism (an overactive thyroid gland), diabetes and kidney disease are common causes of weight loss in senior cats. Please call if you notice any sudden changes in your older pet's weight.

#### **HEARING AND VISION**

It is normal for pets to lose some of their sight and hearing as they age, similar to humans. Older pets may develop cataracts and they may not respond as well to voice commands. If you teach your pet hand signals at a younger age, it may be easier for you to communicate with your pet as their hearing worsens with age.

Pets with poor sight or even blindness can get around well in familiar environments. If your pet's eyesight is failing, avoid rearranging or adding furniture or other items that could become obstacles.

#### **LUMPS AND BUMPS**

.Cancer accounts for almost half of the deaths of pets over 10 years of age. Dogs get cancer at roughly the same rate as humans, while cats have a somewhat lower rate. Ask your vet to assess any new or changing lump you find on your pet.



## OUR SENIORS PROGRAM

Helping your pet live happier, healthier and longer.



#### REGULAR CHECKUPS

Twice yearly vet check-ups and unlimited nurse visits, mean you and your senior pet receive more attention; allowing earlier identification and more help in managing health concerns.

#### **SCREENING TESTS**

To test all those things we can't see, your pet is screened annually with the latest in blood and urine tests to check kidney, liver, thyroid, circulatory and urinary health.





#### TAILORED HEALTH PLAN

We work closely with you to achieve a simple and personalised health and wellness plan designed to maximise your pet's quality of life as they age.

#### COMPREHENSIVE

Take advantage of individualised nutritional, mobilty and pain assessments as well as access to our wide range of diagnostic testing capabilities where indicated.





