

HVAH

Newsletter

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Hunt Valley Animal Hospital
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Care For Your Aging Pet

Due to improved veterinary care and diets, pets are living longer more productive lives than ever before. In recent years extensive research on problems facing aging pets has helped veterinarians and owners treat and handle their aging needs.

Cats and dogs are considered to be geriatric at the age of 7 years. Larger breed dogs tend to have a shorter life span and are considered geriatric when they are about 6 years of age.

Geriatric pets may develop many of the same health issues as do aging humans such as: cancer, heart disease, kidney/urinary tract disease, liver disease, diabetes, joint/bone disease, senility, and arthritis. Non-spayed/neutered pets are at a much higher risk of mammary, testicular, and prostate cancers.

Senior pets require increased attention, including more frequent visits to the veterinarian. Geriatric pets should have semi-annual veterinary visits so signs of illness or other problems can be detected and treated early. Senior exams are more in depth and include an EKG and possibly blood work.



Your pet's diet may be more closely monitored as geriatric pets often need foods that are more readily digested and have different calorie levels and anti-aging nutrients. Weight gain in geriatric dogs increases the risk of health problems, while weight loss is a bigger concern for aging cats.

Older pets' immune systems are not as healthy as those of younger animals - as a result, they can't fight off diseases or heal as fast as younger pets.

Aging pets can show signs of senility. Stimulating them through interactions can help to keep them mentally active.

Older pets may need changes in their lifestyle, such as sleeping areas to avoid stairs and more time indoors.

Common warning signs to discuss with one of our veterinarians: decreased appetite, increased thirst, increased/decreased or no urination, straining to urinate, blood in urine, poor coat, weakness, coughing, trouble breathing, and decreased tolerance of exercise.

Feline Leukemia ...

Feline leukemia virus (FeLV) is a retrovirus named because of the way it behaves within infected cells. A retrovirus produces an enzyme, reverse transcriptase, which permits them to insert copies of their own genetic material into that of the cells they have infected.

Feline leukemia virus affects the cat's body in many ways. It is the most common cause of cancer in cats, it can cause various blood disorders, and may lead to immune deficiency that hinders a cat's ability to protect itself against the environment, can cause severe illness in those with weakened immune systems.



Symptoms include: loss of appetite, slow - progressive weight loss, poor coat condition, enlarged lymph nodes, persistent fever, pale gums, inflammation of the gums and mouth, infections of the skin, urinary bladder, upper respiratory tract, seizures, and behavior changes.

There are several ways to protect cats from contracting the FeLV virus.

- * Test your new cat for FeLV before introducing it to any current cats you may have.
- * Keep cats indoors, away from potentially infected cats.
- * Adopt only infection-free cats into households with uninfected cats.
- * House infection free cats separately from infected cats, and don't allow them to share food or water bowls, or litter boxes.
- * If your cat will be have the opportunity to go outdoors, discuss having the pet vaccinated for FeLV with one of our veterinarians.

**Adopt A Pet Spotlight
is on**



Boy, oh boy...do we have the perfect dog for you! We are pleased to introduce London. This cheery chap is an all-around winner. He loves cruising in the car (windows down, radio up, tongue hanging out!). He knows his basic commands. He has a soft spot for children and simply adores them. He is a 3 year old neutered male Shepherd mix, 53 lbs. If you would like to add London to your family, contact

Defenders of Animal Rights
410-527-1466

" MEET OUR STAFF" SPOTLIGHT IS ON ... GARY

We welcomed Gary into our HVAH family in November, 2014 and couldn't be happier. Gary is a strong member of our kennel team, but has also become quite handy around the hospital.

Originally from Washington, D.C, Gary now resides in Baltimore, MD. His mother and twin sister Ebony, of all of two minutes, also reside in Baltimore, as well as his 2 yr. old niece and 8 yr. old nephew. He visits D.C quite often to visit his dad.

He recently graduated from Morgan State University with a degree in broadcast media. Gary even had his own radio show on his school student station.

Gary's interests include of course his awesome pit-bull "Charlie" (nicknamed "Man Man"), who is a very handsome love-bug. He enjoys sports such as football and basketball, and watching soccer.

What some may not know about Gary is that he enjoys singing, has a little of that Barry White goin' on... he also produces music and enjoys drawing.

His goal is to become a successful producer and engineer.



Word Scramble

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|------------------|--------------|
| vanai _____ | ciotex _____ |
| enainc _____ | lenefi _____ |
| ksaen _____ | rlbgei _____ |
| rpator _____ | |
| gpinieugas _____ | |



De-Skunking Your Pet

Whether you live in the country or the city, skunks are everywhere! Unfortunately there isn't much you can do to prevent a nasty spraying, but we have a remedy to de-skunk your pet bringing harmony and happiness back into your life and home.



- Ingredients ...**
- 1 quart of hydrogen peroxide (3% is recommended)
 - 1/4 cup of baking soda
 - 1 tsp. of liquid dishwashing soap
 - Regular pet shampoo



Directions ...

*Do NOT prepare this solution in advance! Wearing rubber gloves, combine all ingredients in a large bucket. Wash your pet as soon as possible to avoid the skunk oil from drying on the fur. Rub the mixture throughout the fur (avoiding the eyes), then rinse off in 5 minutes. Keep in mind the peroxide can irritate the skin if left on too long. After rinsing your pet - repeat the process as needed. Once the skunk smell is gone, wash your pet with regular pet shampoo and rinse thoroughly. Towel dry him/her and place them in a warm dry place to dry completely.