



THE EVF TIMES

EGLINTON VETERINARY FACILITIES

SEPTEMBER 2013

A FOCUS ON SENIOR PETS



September for veterinarians is traditionally the month to highlight issues in senior pets, and we love this focus on our older friends and the preventative care that will keep them healthy into old age. Anyone who has owned a senior pet will know that there are some special challenges that come with increasing age.

Do you wonder if your senior dog or cat is too heavy? Many senior pets are overweight and research has determined that being overweight may decrease the lifespan of a pet by up to two years. Just like in people, heavy pets are more prone to serious health issues such as diabetes mellitus, heart disease and arthritis. Do not be shocked if one of our veterinarians suggests that your pet needs some weight loss during a visit! If you are not sure about the weight of your pet, please schedule an appointment to discuss this as well as ways to modify the diet of your dog or cat as they age.

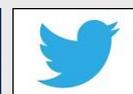
How about mobility and joint disease? A pet does not need to be a senior to have painful and creaky joints, but their risk of arthritis pain certainly increases with age. There are lots of options to help pets of all ages when they seem stiff, reluctant to go on long walks or to jump up into the car or onto furniture.

Do not forget that your senior cat needs to see us too! Veterinary care for cats is just as important as that for dogs, but for whatever reason, pet owners do not always remember to bring their cats to see us. A thorough physical exam every 6 to 12 months allows our veterinarians to check your senior friend from nose to tail, which may reveal things that may not yet be evident at home. This check up, possibly combined with laboratory work, will allow us to help your pet with a health concern before it gets out of hand.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

*We have launched a **NEW website** to allow for our on-line store. Please check out www.eglintonvet.com*

*And join us at our **Facebook page** and **NOW on Twitter***



***ONLINE PET PORTAL** ALSO AVAILABLE. Clients with email can access their pet's medical records at any time of day via our new pet portal*



AN EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT **THE EVF GENERAL STORE**

As part of our commitment to customer service and patient care, we are pleased to announce the launch of the **EVF General Store**, where you will be able to order food, medications and pet products from the comfort of your home, including a delivery option. **Please see page 2 for more details and a promotional offer, or visit the store at: www.eglintonvet.com**

Fall means fleas and ticks... oh my...As the weather turns cooler, some of the parasites that affect our pets become more active, including fleas and ticks. If you have a pet spending time in the outdoors, please insure that they are on a flea prevention product right through until consistent frost. If you travel to tick-heavy areas of the province, your dog(s) should be protected from ticks. **Please contact us for details on how to protect your furry friends.**

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INTRODUCING THE EVF GENERAL STORE



GRAND OPENING

Visit the EVF General Store and place an order using the promo code of: **evfstore** and get free delivery September 23rd through October 4th

Eglinton Vet is very excited to announce the opening of an on-line store... the EVF GENERAL STORE

Where our clients can order both prescription & non-prescription products. Secure payment online and delivery available.

Visit: www.eglintonvet.com



Products available include:

Dog food ~ Cat food
Treats & chews ~ Toys & supplies
Shampoos/odour eliminators
And prescription medications

In the spirit of Eglinton Vet, where we strive to provide excellent patient care and customer service, we are pleased to announce the opening of an on-line store.

We recognize that our clients are very busy and also want the best possible products for their pets. We have launched this store to allow you to buy both prescription and non-prescription products from the comfort of your home or office, at a time that is convenient to you.

For added convenience, we have decided to launch a delivery service for our clients at the same time. Delivery will be available within a certain distance of our clinic and will occur 1-2 days per week, depending on demand.

Delivery available

FREE for the first two weeks, then only \$10! Available within the boundaries of Bloor St. North to Hwy 401 and Dufferin St to Bayview

The EVF General Store and delivery service is supported by a new clinic website. Please check out the website at www.eglintonvet.com and let us know if there is more information that would be of use to you. Our website compliments the pet portal available through Pet Sites, which allows you to view the medical records of your pet and to send us messages and requests for information or supplies.



SENIOR PETS... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Older pets can suffer from cognitive dysfunction (senility), especially dogs, so patience may be necessary. It is possible for dogs to suffer from a type of senility similar to Alzheimer's in people. These dogs may be disoriented, with disruption of activity or sleep patterns, housetraining problems and changes in interactions with family members. Treatments to be considered if your friend seems to be struggling with these things include dietary changes, environmental enrichment or supportive changes, vitamins/supplements and a limited array of medication.

Dental issues and other medical problems are more common in older pets. This statement may seem obvious, but it is very important to remember. It is prudent to have a senior dog or cat examined twice per year by a veterinarian, and in many cases we will also recommend bloodwork at each of these visits. Senior pets can suffer with pain from dental problems, and bacteria in the mouth can put them at risk of heart valve or other infections. Other medical problems such as Cushing's disease, thyroid disease, diabetes mellitus and cancer also affect seniors more often than younger dogs.



Some more senior pet information from the AAHA: http://www.healthypet.com/PetCare/PetCareArticle.aspx?title=Senior_Pet_Care

And from the AVMA: <https://www.avma.org/public/petcare/pages/caring-for-an-older-pet-FAQs.aspx>

DVM CORNER: KIDNEY DISEASE IN CATS DR. BEV BATEMAN

Chronic renal failure (or kidney disease) is one of the most common conditions affecting older cats. Our veterinarians likely discuss this issue daily with the owners of cats over the age of 10 years.

Chronic renal failure occurs where there is long-standing, irreversible damage to the kidneys that impairs their ability to filter and remove waste products from the blood. In most cases, the changes happening within the kidneys occur gradually with very subtle signs of change in the behavior of a cat. However, the rate of progression does vary from patient to patient, and some cases of kidney disease progress very rapidly.

In most cases a specific cause cannot be found, and treatment is aimed at management of the disease. Where an underlying cause can be diagnosed (e.g. infection), and if this is treatable, there may be the potential to halt progression of the disease.

The clinical signs of kidney disease in cats are related in most part to the levels of toxins building up in the body due to poor management by the kidneys, and/or imbalances in blood components brought about by poor kidney function (e.g. anemia, electrolyte imbalances).

Common clinical signs seen in renal disease include (but are not limited to):

- Weight loss
- Increased water intake & urine output
- Poor appetite
- Dehydration
- Lethargy/inactivity
- Poor coat condition
- Vomiting

The diagnosis of chronic renal failure is made from a combination of findings on bloodwork and a urinalysis. These basic tests may be followed by more specific tests looking for an underlying cause.



Unfortunately, chronic kidney disease is progressive and incurable, however, many cats are able to live relatively comfortable lives for many years (while others will succumb in days to weeks).

Treatment is aimed at correcting imbalances that are in place using diet, supplements, and in some cases, medications. Nutrition is a key component of treatment, and there are many dietary strategies which may be discussed. Some pets will need to be hospitalized at some point in the treatment of a kidney issue for intravenous fluid support along with specific other supportive treatments.

TECH TALK: THAT COSTS HOW MUCH?

NANCY KELLY



Let's not mince words! Pet health care is expensive (as is our health care, but most of the expenses we don't see). The team working in your local animal hospital is highly trained and professional, with years of experience and schooling behind them. With the current structure of veterinary medicine in Ontario, clinics need to have a large amount of specialized and expensive equipment to meet standards (including a full surgical suite with instruments, x-ray machine and in-house laboratory) plus facilities to feed and care for creatures from small to large.

All too often difficult decisions have to be made when an emergency arises or a medical condition develops. How much will it all cost and how will I pay for it? Dealing with the stress of the situation can be overwhelming enough without having to worry about how it will be paid

for. Being as prepared as possible, should something happen to your 4-legged friend, will help to alleviate some of that stress.

What are some of your options?

- **Pet insurance:** With so many companies now to choose from, you can find a plan that suits your budget and your needs (do you want emergency care only?). Always read the fine print as to breed exclusions, etc. The best way to compare companies is to call each of them to get your questions answered. Remember...if you don't have insurance and need it, you'll wish you had it. Pre-existing conditions will not normally be covered. Get it before you need it!
- **Savings account:** It may sound strange to some people to open a savings account for their pet, but it's a simple and easy option, especially

Simply set up an automatic transfer to go into the assigned account with a frequency that suits your budget. How much you dedicate to the account is, of course, a personal decision.

- **Veterinary credit card:** This is a viable option for some people but an acceptable credit rating has to be in place. You can apply for a pre-approved credit card of sorts with a capped amount to help out with medical costs. Keep in mind that the interest rate may be high. One company that offers this service is Medi-Card.
- **Personal Line of Credit:** This is a good option for many people with a good credit rating or standing with your bank. The credit limit tends to be higher than a veterinary credit card, and the interest rate is considerably lower.

Curtis ~ In Memoriam



Curtis became a resident of Eglinton Vet in the summer of 2010. At the time he weighed in at over 30lbs, and was unable to walk properly, use the litter box or clean himself appropriately. As such, his family asked us about caring for him. Well known to our team, we asked that the family surrender Curtis to the clinic. Our thought was to put him through a rigorous weight loss program and then find him a new home. However, he quickly stole the hearts of our team and became a permanent fixture at the clinic.

Through a rigid program of feeding and exercise, we were able to bring Curtis' weight down to a respectable 16 lbs over a couple of years. He was never very impressed by our weight loss plan, but he thrived, becoming more comfortable and more active. He was given freedom to roam the clinic, but never ventured far from his "house" in the back treatment area of the hospital. His space there seems so empty now!

The team will always remember how his belly shook when he ran. Despite living in a vet clinic, Curtis hated all dogs and would challenge even the biggest ones. He demanded each meal and would rattle the bars of his open kennel to demand more food. As he became more adventurous, he would resort to stealing food from other animals in the treatment area. He was happy to earn his keep by advertising weight loss diets, lion cuts and by assisting with demonstrations.

Curtis did not have any major medical issues. Despite the immediate care of our team, he passed away very quickly in August following a massive heart attack. He was a special part of the EVF team behind the scenes, and he will be missed very much. We know that he was comfortable and happy as part of our family!

FEATURED PRODUCT—PETS PLUS US PET INSURANCE

You insure your house, your boat, your car, you even insure yourself. Have you insured your pet?

There are a lot of insurance companies out there, and a select few provide health and accident insurance for our four-legged friends. While it is common practice to insure yourself and your family for health, prescription & medical procedures that government health plans don't cover, it is much less common for us to insure our furry family members. A recent poll suggests that only 4.6% of pets in Canada are insured for health and medical issues.

Pets Plus Us Insurance provides the freedom to customize your plan and offers a Wellness Plan that is a first in Canada. This plan gives owners the opportunity to deal with all of their pet's seasonal and yearly needs under one plan, while maintaining a preventive approach to health care. Pick up a brochure in our lobby, the Pets Plus Us ambassadors are ready to answer all your questions.

Some of the features of the Pets Plus Us line of insurance products:

PetHelpFone: providing 24/7 phone support by registered veterinary technicians.

Compassionate Care Line: counseling and bereavement support.

Pet Poison Helpline: an animal-poison control service.

Pet Concierge: a resource for pet-related products and services.



Eglinton Veterinary
Facilities

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**Healthy pets are happy
pets!**



Don't forget to sign up for your free Petsites portal for on-line access to your pet's medical records. If you have an e-mail address on your account with us, you will have received an e-mail with login instructions. PLEASE CHECK YOUR SPAM FILE if you did not receive an e-mail or contact us and we will get you set up with the info

DID YOU KNOW

September is

Pet Health Insurance Month!

To learn more visit our website.

