

# Cleary Lake Veterinary Hospital

## Newsletter

Small Animal Edition

May 2009

### Senior Pets Are Special

Senior pets, like senior people, need special care. Dogs and cats 6 years and older are considered seniors. Senior pets can develop an array of age related health issues that when detected early can help us to improve the quality as well as the length of your pet's life. We have designed a "Senior Pet Care Package" to screen our senior patient's and identify health concerns early. The Senior Dog and Senior Cat Care Packages are very similar. We have added one additional test to the Senior Cat Care Package that addresses the unique health risks of the cat.

The following is a list of tests included in both the Dog and Cat Senior Pet Care Packages...

**Comprehensive Physical Exam:** A thorough exam from nose to tail.

**Packed Cell Volume & Total Protein Level:** Determines whether a pet has an adequate percentage of red blood cells or is anemic, evaluates blood protein levels and assesses a pet's hydration status.

**Chemistry Blood Analysis:** Evaluates the kidneys and liver for disease or injury and, measures blood glucose, which if elevated might indicate that a pet is diabetic.

**Urine Stick and Specific Gravity:** Evaluates kidney function, screens for urinary tract infection and tests for sugar in the urine which also might indicate a pet is diabetic.

**Fecal Exam:** Screens for a variety of intestinal parasites which compromise a pet's immune system, might cause anemia, and can be infectious to people.

For cats we've added:

**Thyroid Testing:** Hyperthyroidism is a common disease of senior cats that when identified and managed early can slow or prevent cardiovascular and kidney disease, adding years to a cat's life.

We offer Senior Pet Care Packages at a 15% discount from the regularly priced tests. We feel strongly that early detection of health issues will improve your pet's quality and quantity of life.

Janelle Abram, DVM

### Did You Know?

Frontline Plus is gentle enough to use on female dogs that are nursing!  
[www.frontline.com](http://www.frontline.com)

#### FOUND

Piece of jewelry found on the floor in the small animal part of the hospital. Please call if you are missing something!  
952-435-8387

Have a question, comment, or a topic you'd like to learn more about? Call or email us!  
[Techs@clvets.com](mailto:Techs@clvets.com)  
952-435-8387

### Tick Season Has Arrived

Multiple ticks have been identified in the past 3 weeks. Ticks pose a risk to pets and people because they can carry and transmit infectious diseases such as Lyme Disease. The best defense against ticks and the diseases they carry is the use of a product called *Frontline Plus*. *Frontline Plus* is a safe and effective antiparasitic that kills within hours of contact with your pet's coat and skin. As a spot on product, *Frontline Plus* is a liquid that when applied to the skin between the shoulder blades of the dog or cat, will distribute to the oil glands of the pet's body within 24-48 hours. The product is effective against ticks for 1 month, and also kills fleas for up to 3 months. In Minnesota, we use *Frontline Plus* from March through October. *Frontline Plus* does not require a prescription and is available in our front lobby.

Occasionally ticks will die after biting a pet treated with *Frontline Plus* but may not fall off. If this occurs, keep a specially marked "tick tweezer" on hand to remove the dead tick, It is not recommended to use fingers to remove ticks as the tick might be carrying infectious disease which could transmit through an open wound. "Leaving the head" after tick removal is also a common concern, but not likely to cause more harm than a common sliver. If this occurs monitor the site for infection and call us if you have concerns.

Remember, if you find ticks on your pet, you may have ticks on yourself. Perform regular tick checks after spending time in tall grass or wooded areas.