



Wadestown Veterinary Clinic & Cattery Newsletter
Autumn 2010

Ph: (04) 472 2012

● **Annual Health Check for your Pet**

To keep your cat or dog in good health and help protect them against often fatal diseases, it is recommended that you have your cat and dog vaccinated on a regular basis. Vaccinations do not protect the body from becoming infected; instead they stimulate the animal's



immune system to create its own protection. Vaccinations for dogs provide protection against diseases such as Parvovirus, Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis and Kennel Cough. The most common vaccination for cats provides protection against Feline Enteritis, Feline Respiratory disease.

It is recommended that you have your animal's vaccinations updated according to the veterinarian's recommendations. Boarding kennels and catteries require that your pet has a current vaccination, therefore when organizing accommodation for your pet, check with the boarding kennel/cattery as to what vaccinations are needed. If your pet's vaccinations are not up-to-date, plan to have their vaccinations done at least two months before taking your pet to their accommodation.

Apart from the general vaccinations your cat or dog will have at their annual health check, they will also be given a physical examination by the veterinarian.



During an annual health check your pet will also be weighed, wormed, be checked for fleas and have a dental examination.

At our clinic, we hand scale cats teeth to remove plaque build up to keep cats teeth and gums healthy and to save you from costly dental work later on.

The annual health check is also an opportunity for you to discuss any other health/behaviour concerns that you may have about your pet.

● **Senior Pets**

When a cat or dog reaches 7 years of age they are entering their senior years. As your pet gets older things begin to deteriorate, just like us!!! We suggest that your pet is checked regularly by our veterinarian as part of a preventative health care programme. While we suggest a yearly check up, as your pet gets a little "longer in the tooth" a six monthly visit may be required. Regular checks which may involve a senior animal blood and/or urine test and checking your pet's blood pressure can help in detecting medical conditions that are more common in senior pets. Keep an eye on any weight loss, your pet drinking more water than normal and changed eating habits. Other potential problems an older animal may have are digestive problems, toileting issues, tooth decay, heart/ kidney disease and arthritis.



● Dietary Requirements for Senior Pets

As animals age they tend to lose their appetite, therefore it is important that they are fed a well balanced diet that is especially designed for aging cats and dogs. Senior diets provide nutrients/vitamins/minerals to help keep senior animals healthy and functioning. These diets will aid in maintaining healthy joints and are formulated to assist with healthy kidney function. Senior diets for cats contain taurine for good vision and a healthy heart. Senior diets contain essential fibre for optimal digestion and antioxidants to slow the aging process and keep a strong immune system. Dry and wet foods are available for maturing cats and dogs from Hills Science Diet. Hills Science Diet and Iams/Eukanuba have introduced sachet packets for cats which are more user-friendly.

Arthritis:



Is your pet in unnecessary pain?



Does your pet:

- Spend more time sleeping
- Prefer lying to sitting or standing
- Sit or rest in an abnormal position
- Shift frequently to get comfortable
- Limping
- Seem stiff, particularly after resting
- Have trouble getting up from a lying or seated position
- Hesitates when jumping or climbing stairs
- Take shorter strides when walking
- Change in behaviour e.g. more aggressive
- Urinate inappropriately
- Appear more withdrawn than in the past
- Joints look swollen
- Cries when being touched or avoids being touched

- **Supplements for your pet**

SYNOQUIN FOR CATS AND DOGS

A unique patented formula to maintain joint function.

Glucosamine HCl: "The Builder"

The major building block for the synthesis of new and healthy glycosaminoglycans (*GAGS*)

- ✓ Encourages manufacture of *GAGs* in cartilage.
- ✓ Maintains cartilage *GAG* quality.
- ✓ Helps to maintain joint function.

Chondroitin Sulphate: "The Shock Absorber"

Its primary function is to give cartilage its shock absorbing properties.

- ✓ Predominant *GAG* found in cartilage.
- ✓ Maintains a healthy synovial fluid matrix.
- ✓ Maintains cartilage water content and binds with collagen to ensure tensile strength.



Synoquin has been independently tested against other leading brands and was found to contain much higher levels of *Glucosamine* and *Chondroitin* than any other product on the New Zealand market.