



YOUR CAT'S HEALTH, OUR PASSION • VOLUME 6, ISSUE 9 • SEPTEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

**FELINE SENIOR CITIZENS**

Thanks to advances in veterinary care and nutrition, and as more kitty guardians understand the importance of a lifetime of preventive care, our feline family members are with us longer than ever before. As they age, their nutritional and health requirements change along with their body.

As cats grow older, metabolic diseases such as hyperthyroidism, chronic renal (kidney) insufficiency, and diabetes mellitus (high blood sugar) can become more common. More mature kitties are also more prone to diseases such as cancer, arthritis, anemia, obesity, heart and liver disease, and dental disease.

Older kitties need regular wellness exams to monitor blood work, blood pressure, and potential chronic disease. The American Association of Feline Practitioners recommends twice-yearly exams for kitties beginning at age 11.

Wellness exams and metabolic testing may detect signs of disease before a cat shows symptoms or becomes debilitated. And if a medical issue is diagnosed early, less-expensive and less-aggressive treatment may be required than if the problem has progressed. (Please see our special offer below for a discount on a metabolic panel when your kitty visits us for a wellness exam.)

Sadly, though, sometimes a kitty is diagnosed with an illness for which there is no cure. In a time such as this, hospice care can provide loving support during the final phase of a kitty's life. The goal of hospice is to keep the kitty as comfortable and free of pain as possible while focusing on quality of life and living each day as fully as possible.

The decision to provide hospice care should be made in conjunction with your veterinarian, who will be your partner every step of the way. Hospice typically involves providing in-home comfort, nutrition, hydration, cleanliness, and pain management. Supplemental care may be also be provided by your veterinarian.

Despite the emotional aspects of knowing that your time together is drawing to a close, the decision to provide hospice care is not about giving up hope. It's about finding ways to help your kitty live with a terminal illness while still experiencing good quality of life. It can be a special time of increased commitment, love, and bonding with your feline family member.

Our caring veterinarians are here to speak with you about hospice care options and to answer any questions you may have.

**WEEKLY VACCINATION CLINIC**

As part of a comprehensive wellness program, your veterinarian may recommend annual vaccines for your kitty to help prevent against illnesses such as rabies, feline distemper, and feline leukemia.

Every Wednesday and Saturday from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m., the Sacramento Cat Hospital holds a walk-in vaccination clinic. No appointment is necessary; just drop by with your kitty. (To attend the clinic, your kitty must have received a wellness exam at the Sacramento Cat Hospital within the past 12 months.)

The Sacramento Cat Hospital uses only non-adjuvanted vaccines. Many vaccines are adjuvanted, meaning they contain an additive designed to help a cat absorb the vaccine. Unfortunately, adjuvanted vaccines

have been shown to cause inflammation or even cancerous tumors at the injection site.

For more information about our vaccination clinic and our non-adjuvanted vaccines, speak with one of our team members.

**SEPTEMBER SPECIAL OFFER FOR OUR READERS**

Bring your kitty to the Sacramento Cat Hospital for a wellness exam during the month of September and receive \$25 off a metabolic panel. Please stop by our front desk for more information or to schedule your appointment.



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