

**OCTOBER IS
SENIOR PET
MONTH**

**SEE ARTICLE
BELOW FOR
DETAILS**



October is Senior Pet Month

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Did you know that in general, animals aged 7 years and older are considered “Senior” and can be at risk for age-related problems. And although your pet may seem perfectly healthy to you, they often hide clinical signs of underlying disease and may not show signs of illness until the disease or disorder is well advanced.

For example, your older pet may look and act normally while coping with such things as an aching joint, tooth pain, disorientation and a loss of awareness for surrounding hazards.

What you can do as an owner is watch for subtle changes in

your pet’s behavior such as less interaction with you or your family as this can signal an underlying discomfort in your pet. You can also schedule regular physical examinations with your veterinarian, which may include a senior “Wellness” blood and urine test. By testing your pet’s blood and urine it allows us to detect disease early, adjust treatment where there is underlying organ dysfunction as well as obtain baseline data. Medi-Cal/ Royal Canin recognizes that nutrition is an important part of your pets health, so they have offered a free bag of dry food, or flat of canned food to every senior



pet that has a “wellness” blood profile performed in the month of October in our hospital. Based on the results of the bloodwork and your pet’s health exam, the veterinarian will recommend the diet that will be most appropriate for your senior pet.

To book your pet’s Senior wellness exam, please call us. *Jessie, AHT*

Senior Pet Month

- Pets aged 7 years or older are considered “senior”
- Often we see changes as the weather gets colder
- Bloodwork can often uncover problems that are not yet obvious
- Call to set up an appointment

Thank You to Our Staff

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of Crescent Falls Veterinary Hospital for the wonderful and professional work they do on a daily basis.

Having practised collectively for 13 years, we’ve had the occasion to work with a variety of people in this industry,

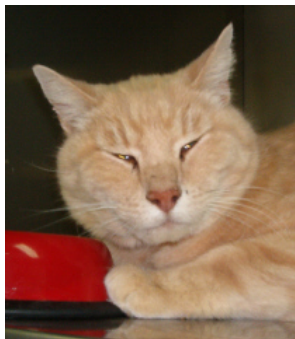
but rarely does one have the privilege of working with so many committed individuals who not only excel as individuals but even more so as a team.

Their caring and compassion for patients and their owners is evidenced every day we come to work and encourages

us to do our best. As the veterinarians who treat your pets and form the bond with you, the client, we want to express that this would not be possible to the same degree without this great staff behind us.

Dr Kristina Ringness & Dr Trinity Smith

Adoption Success Stories



Melvin has been adopted!

We have had a lot of stray cats come in over the last couple of years. Some stay with us for a while and then find great homes. Others find foster homes and then get adopted. A few have even become our adored clinic cats, but I would like to share two great stories that have happened recently. Melvin was brought into the clinic by his owners and was soon diagnosed with Diabetes. His owners could not deal with a diabetic pet and they signed him over to our clinic.

He was with us for a few months, and several people were interested in him, but none wanted to deal with the everyday obstacles that come with having a diabetic cat. But after 4 months of insulin and diet change, he no longer needed insulin. He was soon adopted by a client that had fallen in love with him and still has him today.

Macintosh is another cat that came to us as a stray (through Vernon & District ACS). He was a little rough around the

edges, having bad teeth and a hole in his ear. But that didn't stop him from being sweet and lovable. After being with us for about 2 months he was adopted and went to be an outdoor cat at a local farm. He spends his days dozing in the sun and greeting people at his gate.

We are glad that both of these wonderful animals have found great homes. Let's keep it up, as there are so many more stray animals in need of good homes!

Katrina, Veterinary Assistant

Urinating Where They Shouldn't

Did you know that most inappropriate urinating cases can be easily treated once diagnosed by your veterinarian? The leading causes of most bladder problems are urinary tract infections or crystals in the urine. A diagnosis is usually made by doing a urinalysis on a urine sample. If you have a dog, the sample can usually be collected at home and the sample be brought to the clinic at the time of your appointment. If you have a

cat the collection is a little more difficult. Usually, the best thing to do is to bring your cat in for a cystocentesis, a very simple procedure that gets us a sterile sample. A urinalysis consists of three tests. The first is a test to determine the specific gravity. This determines how concentrated the urine is, and therefore if the kidneys are functioning properly. Next is a urine test strip. This tells us the pH of the urine as

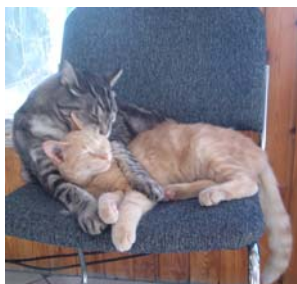
well as, if the urine has any nitrate, protein, glucose, ketones, urobilinogen, bilirubin or blood in it.

Last but not least we look at the sample under the microscope. Here we look for red blood cells, white blood cells, bacteria and crystals.

Once we have all this information, we can start appropriate treatment such as antibiotics or simply changing your pet's diet.

Iva, AHT

The leading causes of most bladder problems are urinary tract infections or crystals in the urine.



Cats of all ages can be affected.

Is Your Kitty Sneezing?

Most feline upper respiratory infections are caused by either feline herpes or calicivirus. Typically infected cats come from the shelter, are outdoor cats, or are housed in close contact with lots of other cats. Kittens are predisposed due to their immature immune systems. Symptoms of URI include sneezing, nasal discharge, runny eyes, cough, oral ulcers, sniffles, fever; aka a feline "cold". Most feline

URI's run a course of 7 to 10 days but some can drag on for weeks. For kittens that are infected, the most significant factor in their throwing off infection, is maturation and gaining a more effective immune system with growth. Since this disease is viral in origin antibiotics do not work in fighting it. However, it is common for these viral infections to become complicated by secondary bacterial invaders. Therefore,

antibiotics may be prescribed for this reason.

Sometimes an upper respiratory infection can be serious. If a cat is sick enough to stop eating or drinking, hospitalization may be needed to support him or her through the brunt of the infection. Therefore, veterinary attention should be sought at this time.

Dr. Trinity Smith

Slim Fit Program

Overweight pets are a big problem in today's pet population. Cats and dogs are packing on the pounds, which in turn can lead to health concerns, just like in humans. These concerns include heart disease, diabetes, urinary tract disease, certain forms of bladder cancer (dog), and liver disease (cats). The pet's life expectancy may therefore be reduced dramatically. There is a special program, the **Slim Fit Program**, which your veterinarian can intro-

duce you and your pet to. The basic point is, exercise and a calorie reduced diet will achieve the best weight loss results. Often though, this is easier said than done. With the help of the personnel at your veterinary clinic, an **individual plan** can be made **for your pet**. Depending on your pet's body condition and weight, the amount of food to feed is specifically calculated. The animal should ideally come in for weekly weigh-ins in order to follow the progress

of your pet, and make any adjustments to the diet, in order to achieve your goal. The program and help from our staff will also give you tips on how to increase activity, and decrease calorie dense treats, in a way that hopefully suits your situation. As with humans, animals have their own individual metabolism, and a weight loss program should be adjusted to their individual needs.
Anna, AHT



Both cats and dogs can gain weight as they age

The Romy Fund

In this quarter, the Romy Fund was once again able to help a stray animal. Stripes arrived at the hospital one night after being hit by a car several hours earlier. He was brought in by the people who had been feeding this very friendly stray cat.

Stripes had a broken pelvis and in his case needed surgery. The people who brought him in were willing to adopt him and pay for a good portion of the surgery, and the Romy Fund was able to cover the rest. Stripes now has a good home and can lavish all his

purring on his adopted family. Thank you all again for your generous donations!
Dr Kristina Ringness



Around the Hospital - Katrina

The newest member of the Crescent Falls staff is Katrina. Katrina started in April as a veterinary assistant and has now decided to start her Animal Health Technology Distance program while continuing to work here. This will allow her to achieve her diploma in Animal Health

Technology over the next three years. Katrina moved to Vernon from 100 Mile house specifically to further her studies as an AHT. She misses her dog Teeak and her horses dearly, but does get up there from time to time to visit. In her free time Katrina enjoys be-

ing outdoors; whether it's a long kayak or bike ride, or just relaxing with her boyfriend Chris. All our staff are happy to welcome Katrina and her big smile to the Crescent Falls family.
Kathy, Veterinary Reception



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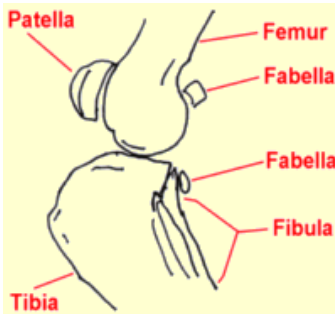
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VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.CRESCENTFALLSVET.COM

Crescent Falls Veterinary Hospital strives to give you and your pets the premium service you are seeking. From the smile at the front desk, to Drs. Ringness & Smith answering the phone on all emergency/ after-hours calls, we believe in being accountable to you.



Cranial Cruciate Ligament Rupture



Part II (Part I can be found in the Summer 2007 issue)

What Happens if the Cruciate Rupture is Not Surgically Repaired?

Without an intact cruciate ligament, the knee is unstable. Severe arthritis will eventually develop in the knee joint. After several weeks from the time of injury, the dog may appear to get better but will never regain normal function of the knee and return to normal activity. Once arthritis is present in the knee joint, surgery cannot reverse this process. However, it will arrest the development of further arthritic changes.

Surgical Repair

There are two different surgical repair techniques commonly used. One method

recreates the ligament with heavy suture or wire outside the knee joint in order to mimic the function of the cruciate ligament. The other method, called a Tibial Plateau Leveling Osteotomy (TPLO), involves cutting and rotating the tibia in such a way that the natural weight-bearing of the dog actually stabilizes the knee joint. The TPLO surgery is complex and is usually performed by a board certified surgeon. Both methods are used to successfully repair a cruciate rupture. Research is still being done in order to determine if one method is superior to the other, especially in dogs over 50 lbs.

Rehabilitation after Surgery

A dog may carry the leg up 10-14 days after surgery but can be toe touching as soon as

2 days after repair. It is extremely important to restrict exercise for 8 weeks post surgery in order for the knee to heal properly. This means no running on and off leash (even in a backyard) and no jumping. Over the 8 week period exercise will be gradually increased under the strict instruction of the veterinarian. If these instructions are not followed by the owner it will prevent proper healing of the knee and can even result in re-repair of the ligament with another surgery. With proper exercise restriction, full function of the knee is generally achieved 3-4 months after surgery and the dog can return to normal activity at this time.

Dr Trinity Smith

