

## **Senior Health Clinics**

At Claro Hill Vets, we know that it can be upsetting to see your pets ageing and slowing down; and we understand that you will want to ensure your pet remains happy and comfortable in his/her later years. We want the same for them too! We are passionate about making sure your dog or cat remains as healthy as possible, for as long as possible, so you can continue to enjoy your time together.

As pets age, we expect some changes to occur, but some of these signs can be indicators of underlying problems or painful conditions. Some signs can be very subtle, especially when you see your pet everyday, making it harder to appreciate them. Therefore sometimes a bit of detective work is needed!

The aim of our Senior Health Clinics is to increase the life expectancy of your pet and improve the quality of their life. Early detection of disease, allows us to put plans and strategies in place to manage or treat conditions, before they become life-limiting. Overall, having a positive impact on your pet's comfort level and quality of life.

### **Signs to look out for at home in your senior pet:**

- Changes in appetite, either more or less
- Increased thirst
- Increased urination
- Vomiting and diarrhoea, more frequently than previously
- Halitosis (smelly breath)
- Slowing down on walks, less interest in going out for walks, more time spent sleeping
- Stiffness when getting up from lying down, or difficulty lying down
- Resentment being picked up or groomed
- Reduced grooming in cats
- Limping, inability to jump e.g. in to the car, or climb stairs
- Inappropriate toileting or accidents in the house



### **What to expect at a Senior Health Clinic**

Senior Health Clinics are aimed at cats over 8 years of age, and dogs over 7 years old, (or younger in a large/giant breed).

Prior to the appointment you will be sent out a questionnaire to complete about your pet's behaviour. Alternatively this can be filled out in the waiting room with us. You will also be tasked with trying to get a urine sample from your pet on the morning of the appointment. Please ask us if you would like a collection pot for dogs or hydrophobic sand to put in your cat's litter tray.

The vet or nurse will discuss with you whether you have noticed any of the above signs, observe your pet from a distance moving around the room and then perform a clinical examination of your pet from top to toe.

The health check includes:

- a full clinical examination and dental check
- a blood sample to check routine biochemistry, haematology and SDMA (an early marker of kidney disease)
- blood pressure measurement
- urinalysis



Further blood tests may be recommended, such as thyroid level (T4) in cats. There would be an additional charge incurred for these.

Other recommendations will also be provided regarding the most appropriate diet for your senior pet, flea treatment, worming control and any imaging, such as x-rays, that would be beneficial to diagnose arthritis.

The vet will discuss the results of the tests with you and then help to devise a plan going forwards to ensure your pet is going to be happy, healthy and comfortable. There are a huge number of products on the market; from joint supplements, to non-steroidal anti-inflammatories, to monthly injections for arthritis, as well as surgical options if required.

**To book in for your pet in for a Senior Health Check, please call us on 01423 228080 or visit [www.clarohillvets.co.uk](http://www.clarohillvets.co.uk).**