



PET PAGES

Official Yellow Pages for Animal Lovers

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Pet Pages – For the Sarasota/Manatee/Desoto/Charlotte Edition

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“Ageism”

What’s in a Number?

Is our pet’s average life span increasing? Yes!!!

A recent study, quoted by the AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association), showed the average cat’s life span increased by 10% between 1997 and 2000. The average dog’s life span increased by 4% in that same span of time. We are seeing more geriatric pets than ever before. Our goal, as always, is to strive for excellent health and excellent quality-of-life well into our pet’s senior years.

Ageism is a prejudice based solely on an individual’s age. It is a concept sometimes applied to animals inappropriately, justifying discontinuation of regular exams, preventative care, and screenings because they are “too old”.

As our pets increase in age, there are many diseases or conditions that may develop. Some of these include arthritis, renal disease, dental disease, heart disease, cataracts (and other ocular conditions) and cancers. These issues can be extremely harsh on the body which can affect our pet’s quality of life and longevity. If we could minimize or delay the consequences of these diseases, our pets could maintain their health as long as possible.

The best chance of intervening on our pet’s behalf is in the earliest stages of these diseases/conditions.

Interestingly, our pets often do not show symptoms until the condition is advanced and severe. So how can we help our pets, optimally?

The key to our goal, of keeping our pets as healthy as possible, involves the development of a partnership between the pet owner and their veterinarian. This starts with pet owners finding a veterinarian that will listen carefully and communicate well.

Together we will identify changes in your pet’s overall health and behavior.

Together we hope to protect your pet from preventable diseases.

Together we strive for early identification and management of chronic or degenerative diseases, in order to delay the progression (worsening) of the diseases that develop.

Do not allow your old friend to miss out on the opportunity to feel well as long as possible.

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CHANGES TO FOLLOW

Approved By _____ Date _____

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