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EARLY DETECTION GERIATRIC CANINE PROGRAM

Advances in veterinary medicine and nutrition, enhancement of the human-animal bond, and loving care by owners has increased the number of pets living into their "senior years"!

Like their human counterparts, senior pets require an increased level of care to maintain optimum health and to detect changes that may lead to disease. Do not assume that your pet is simply suffering from "old age" and cannot be helped! Old age itself is not a disease, but we do see an increase in age related illness as our pets get older. We have more tools than ever to treat or slow the progression of many age-related issues especially if caught early. These procedures will provide a more complete and comprehensive picture of your pet's health and medical needs. By working with our veterinarians, you can help ensure that your pet enjoys the best quality of life for the longest possible time.

In order to encourage pet owners to take advantage of the recommendations outlined below, our packages are offered at a discounted rate. **Not all "seniors" need vaccines but for those enrolled in the early detection program "core" vaccines* (tailored to your pet's needs) and an initial nail trim are FREE.**

Included in the package price are...

**TWO COMPREHENSIVE PHYSICAL EXAMS,
TWO CBC's, TWO CHEMISTRY PROFILES, THYROID (T4) TEST, COMPLETE URINALYSIS,
FECAL ANALYSIS, HEARTWORM TEST, TICK DISEASE SCREEN,
RADIOGRAPHS (XRAY'S), BLOOD PRESSURE MONITORING, SCHIRMER TEAR TEST,
"CORE VACCINES*", INITIAL NAIL TRIM, BAG OF LEAN TREATS**

Package Price: \$450

(\$650 Value)

ADDITIONAL EARLY DETECTION DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

To encourage proper preventive dental care for your pet, participants in the Early Detection Program receive a **15% discount on a dental cleaning** (scale and polish teeth under anesthesia). This does not apply to special dental work if needed, such as extractions or periodontal antibiotic therapy. Your veterinarian will help guide you on your pet's dental health needs for at home care or a professional cleaning if needed.

You may also take advantage of additional **\$5 discounts** on 1 year supplies of internal and external parasite preventives (**Interceptor Plus or Heartgard Plus and Frontline Gold or Nexgard**) and **MICROCHIPPING**.

All discounts and services are good for up to 10 months from purchase of package.

*For the health and safety of your pet, distemper and leptosporosis vaccines must be given with an exam.

LIFESTYLE ADD-ONS: Depending on your pet's lifestyle and history they may be at additional risk. A short questionnaire we review with you will determine if your pet needs additional preventive care. **Specialty vaccines and/or vaccine titers** can be added at regular price if your pet's lifestyle indicates they are needed.

doesn't your pet deserve the very best...

The Early Detection Geriatric Program is designed to alert us to early changes and help avoid advanced, irreversible, or costly disease. Your pet cannot talk and many show no signs something is wrong. Many illnesses, although present, can go undetected for months due to the nature of disease and our pets natural ability and desire to "hide" illnesses. The recommendations and information below are screening procedures and preventives. They are intended to pick up or prevent the most *common* disorders, but do not rule out every possible condition. Our packages can also save you money in the future by managing disease early. If detected early, 75% of common canine diseases can be managed with dietary modifications alone.

COMPREHENSIVE PHYSICAL EXAM Still the *most important aspect* of preventative care. Because dogs and cats age at a faster rate in their senior years, we highly recommend scheduling an exam **twice a year**. This allows us to assess body condition, joint function, hair coat, heart, lungs, ears, eyes, thyroid, teeth, lymph nodes and skin masses or ulcerations. Bi-annual exams are recommended for all senior pets to detect problems they "hide" from their owners.

COMPLETE CHEMISTRY PROFILE AND BLOOD COUNT used to assess the function of the liver, kidneys, pancreas, and other body systems such as electrolyte balance. It also helps in the diagnosis of infection, cancer, anemia, and bleeding disorders. This test will provide insight into the status of your pet's immune system and gives us a "baseline" for future comparison. Blood values show changes long before your pet shows signs and early detection allows early and more effective treatment. **A recheck in 6 months is also included.**

THYROID TEST(T4) measures levels of thyroid hormone, commonly decreased in older dogs. Early diagnosis will allow early treatment which can help your pet avoid increased weight, skin problems, and decreased energy.

HEARTWORM TESTING The Heartworm Society recommends yearly heartworm testing for dogs and cats (even those on prevention). This ensures your pet is free from this deadly parasite, and also allows early detection (before your pet shows signs) and treatment of this disease, should your pet contract the parasite.

TICK BOURNE BACTERIAL INFECTIONS (lyme, ehrlichia, and anaplasma) even an unseen tick can transmit these debilitating diseases. Early detection allows more success with treatment.

FECAL ANALYSIS is important in older pets as parasites or bacterial infections can cause serious, but treatable disease in senior pets. Many of these parasites are transmissible to people too. Even pets that are indoor only are at risk as fecal parasites can be transmitted by insects, rodents, potting soil, or just a simple stroll through the yard.

COMPLETE URINALYSIS a urine sample is checked for evidence of infection or diabetes and it also helps assess kidney function. If kidney disease or diabetes are detected early treatment is more effective and less expensive.

SCHIRMER TEAR TEST is a tear production test, performed to make sure that enough tears are being made to moisten and nourish the surface of the eye and cleanse the eyes of foreign particles. Decreased tear production is a common cause of blindness in older dogs.

BLOOD PRESSURE MONITORING High blood pressure can cause blindness, "strokes", and damage to the heart and kidneys. It can also indicate an underlying, but treatable disease process.

CHEST XRAYS to evaluate the size of the heart and presence of lung disease or masses. Many older pets develop congestive heart failure, which is a very manageable disease if caught early! If indicated, the doctor may recommend imaging of a different area.

HEARTWORM/PARASITE PREVENTION Year round use of heartworm prevention (Interceptor Plus or Heartgard Plus) is strongly recommended for every dog (even indoor dogs) to prevent contraction of heartworms, a parasite that causes irreversible and potentially fatal heart disease. These preventives also help protect you and your pet from contracting certain common intestinal parasites. Unprotected dogs in our area are frequently diagnosed with these parasites.

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