

# ORCHARD HILLS VETERINARY HOSPITAL

## Older Pets

Pets aged 7-8yrs plus is equivalent to 50-60 human years old. A human at the age of 50-60 years is beginning to show a few signs of ageing and should be visiting the Doctor at least every 2 years for a general check up.

As you are probably aware the dog and cat age much more quickly than a human. It therefore it goes without saying that 'SENIOR' pets require more frequent check ups to detect early signs of wear & tear. This enables these conditions to be treated before they become too severe and sometimes irreversible.

Deterioration in health in the older animal may include any of the following:

- Skeletal system (arthritis in particular)
- Heart/lungs
- Kidneys/liver
- Teeth
- Tumours (skin, abdominal & bone)
- Eyes
- Hormonal (especially thyroid & diabetes)
- Behavioural problems (e.g. dementia)

At this clinic we recommend 6 monthly check ups once an animal reaches its senior years.

During these visits we will give your animal a "thorough overhaul" and sometimes recommend a few tests.

Sometimes a simple change of diet to meet the needs of the older animal will be all that is needed.