



OAK FOREST Veterinary Hospital



Pet Talk



Spring 2020

Cat Stats

6 Life Stages of Our Feline Friends



How old is your cat in human years? Understanding your fur-baby's stage of life can help you provide a proper lifestyle and better overall care.

Kittens: From birth to 6 months, your fuzzy bundle of joy grows quickly from a newborn to the equivalent of a 10-year-old child. This is the best stage for your cat to get them comfortable with tooth and coat brushing, nail trims, traveling in cars, interacting with other pets, and being in a carrier.

Junior: At 6 months to 2 years, kitty will mature to adulthood. At one year, he is a teenager and is roughly 24 in human years by age 2.

Prime: Your cat's prime years of 3 to 6 are equivalent to a human age of 28 to 40. Watch for symptoms of urinary tract or kidney issues as well as dental problems, which can begin to develop at this age.

Mature: Age 7 to 10 years can be compared with ages 44 to 56 in humans. Your middle-aged cat will become less physically active, so be sure to keep them at a healthy weight.

Senior: An 11- to 14-year-old kitty is now between 60 and 72 in human years. We may recommend changing to a senior diet and will keep a close watch for diseases associated with aging.

Geriatric: At 15 and beyond (late 70s to over 100 in human years!) you can expect some geriatric conditions such as cognitive dysfunction, joint-related diseases, kidney problems and tooth decay. We will need to see your cat more frequently to be sure his or her golden years are as happy and as comfortable as possible.

We love to care for your furry family members at any stage of life!

Sick Kitty?

When to Worry about Diarrhea in Cats



Occasional episodes of vomiting or diarrhea in cats are not uncommon and are usually caused by something they ate or from stress. In these cases, diarrhea usually lasts only a day or two and is not cause for concern. However, diarrhea with vomiting, diarrhea lasting more than two days, or bloody or black stools can indicate a serious illness.

Recurring bouts of diarrhea can be a symptom of illnesses such as liver or kidney disease, viral infections, thyroid problems, neurological issues, poisoning, cancer, and many other disorders. For this reason, we will need to examine your kitty if diarrhea persists or is recurring to determine the underlying cause.

If your cat has occasional diarrhea that is short-term, try to determine the cause and discontinue any foods or treats that don't agree with him. Many plants are toxic to cats, so be sure these are out of reach. You can withhold food until the stools return to normal but be sure your cat remains hydrated with plenty of fresh water. Never give human medications and call us if you see signs of dehydration or any of the symptoms mentioned above.

Canine Epilepsy

Recognizing Seizures in Dogs



Few things are scarier than watching your furry best friend have a seizure. Epilepsy, a brain abnormality characterized by seizures, is the most common neurological disorder seen in dogs. Epileptic seizures can be mild, with muscle twitching or shaking that lasts for only a few seconds. Major seizures can include collapsing, jerking, loss of consciousness, drooling, chomping, tongue chewing, or foaming at the mouth. A dog may fall over and make running motions with their legs or may lose bowel and bladder control.

Before a seizure, your dog may look dazed, seem unsteady or confused. Afterward, they may be disoriented, wobbly, or even temporarily blind. Although any dog can have epilepsy, it is more common in border collies, Australian shepherds, Labrador retrievers, beagles, collies and German shepherds.

If your dog is having a seizure, speak calmly and avoid touching him as he may bite. Note the length of the seizure and call us afterward. Seizures lasting five minutes or more are especially dangerous, but we should know about any seizures as they can indicate other possible diseases or poisoning. We will do a thorough exam and lab work to look for the cause of your dog's seizures.

There is no cure or prevention for epilepsy, but it can be largely controlled with medication. Dogs that only suffer mild or infrequent epileptic seizures may not require medication, but for dogs who suffer more frequent episodes your veterinarian can prescribe an oral anticonvulsant medication.

Goose Honks

Practice News and Stuff ...



It's me again! Your favorite writing terrier mix! I've been so busy barking and meeting new people, I almost forgot to write!

You wouldn't believe the changes around here! First off, Dr. Ashlee Nelson started working with my mom in October. Then she had a human baby in January! Mom says the baby is super cute. I've seen pictures but they won't let me lick him yet. She is coming back to work in April.

And then, guess what? Mom says Dr. Wise (she was Dr. Maher) is moving to Austin in May! I've been to Austin. It's weird. But there are lots of dogs and cats there apparently. And it's closer to Dr. Wise's family. Mom is sad about her leaving but we wish her well and know she will be a great vet anywhere.

And we have new faces around here now too! Mom says someone named Breanna Green will be joining her at work in June. Isn't that a beautiful name?! She is a vet too!



Whew! That's a lot of changes! I could hardly keep up! Dr. Crocker and my Mom (Dr. Moore) are staying put, though.

Mom says she is looking for one more vet to work with her. I'll keep you posted on future changes.



Call us at (713) 682-6351 today to make an appointment!



Can My Dog Get the Flu?

Know the Facts on CIV

Can your dog get the flu? Well, not from you, but dogs have their own species-specific flu viruses called canine influenza viruses (CIV). CIV is a highly contagious respiratory disease caused by specific Type A influenza viruses known to infect dogs. Canine influenza is a relatively new virus believed to have mutated from an equine influenza strain, with the first cases being reported in 2004. Unlike the human "flu season" that peaks in winter months, CIV circulates year-round.

Dogs most at risk are those in frequent contact with other dogs in boarding kennels, daycare or competitions. Symptoms are cough, runny nose, fever, lethargy, eye discharge, and reduced appetite; however, some dogs do not show signs of illness. CIV can be mild or severe, and infected dogs can range from no symptoms to critical illness resulting in pneumonia and, in rare cases, death. However, most dogs recover within a few weeks once the virus has run its course.

Canine flu is spread through coughing, sneezing, and contaminated surfaces. We can test for H3N8 and H3N2 canine influenza virus infections if you suspect your pup has been exposed and is showing any symptoms. Treatment for canine flu is mostly supportive. We will recommend fluids, rest and sometimes cough medicine specific for dogs. Vaccines against CIV are not necessary for all dogs but are available if your fur-baby is at a high risk of exposure.



We're committed to a long and healthy life for your pet!



When you're here, you're family.

2120 W. 34th Street
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<https://OakForestVet.com>

Senior Wellness Savings

\$20 Savings for Canine and Feline

Senior Wellness Profile - includes bloodwork, urinalysis and thyroid check

Not valid with any other offer. Expires 5/31/2020.

Drop-off Savings

Save 5%

on morning drop-offs for "routine" veterinary services.

Expires 5/31/2020.

Refer a Friend

Refer a new client and you will save **\$10** on your next doctor's visit.

Be sure to mention the refer-a-friend savings when you make your appointment.

Expires 5/31/2020.

Microchip Savings

\$10 Savings

on Microchipping (includes registration in the national database)

Increase the likelihood that your pet will be returned to you!

Not valid with any other offer. Expires 5/31/2020.



Call (713) 682-6351
today to make an appointment!



*Your pets.
Our passion.*



When you're here, you're family.

Call
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