Obesity, dental and mature pet health

**Obesity**

Do you recognize the signs of excess weight? Body Condition Scoring helps determine if a pet’s growth rate and feeding procedures are correct. Proper growth and weight can help prevent obesity and growth-related skeletal disease.

*Is it difficult to feel her ribs or spine?*

*Is her waist difficult to see?*

*Does her face appear more round with larger cheeks?*

*Is her abdomen sagging?*

*Does he have a broad back?*

*Does the base of his tail seem thick?*

*Is his waist difficult to see?*

*Is it difficult to see his ribs?*

**Dental**

By age three, 80% of dogs and cats show signs of periodontal disease including:

- Red and swollen gums
- Pain
- Bad breath
- Tooth loss

If left untreated, this eventually progresses to plaque accumulation, gum recession, loosened teeth, bad breath, inflammation and bleeding of the gums, and eventually loss of teeth, oral infections, and even poor overall health.

Treatment options include chewing exercises, regular tooth brushing and feeding a dry food specially formulated to reduce plaque, tartar and gingivitis.

**Mature pet health**

Around the age of seven, dogs and cats begin to enter their “golden years.” Just like older people, pets age seven and older experience physical and behavioural changes, putting them at greater risk for age-related diseases such as:

- Kidney disease
- Heart disease
- Arthritis
- Obesity
- Brain aging/behavioural changes
- Urinary tract disease

You can reduce the risk of health problems and help your pet live a longer, better quality life with regular veterinary care, including annual kidney screens, and feeding the best nutrition for his or her changing needs.