

Pawsitive Press

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Related Webpages:

Lap of Love
www.lapoflove.com

Pet Loss
www.petloss.com

The Rainbow Bridge
www.rainbowbridge.com

Grief Healing
www.griefhealing.com

What Time Is It, Doc?

By: Christen Woodley, D.V.M.

Loss of a pet is one of the hardest things any pet owner will ever go through. For some of us the grief is even heavier than if a person in the family has passed. But even for how much pain it brings us, it is our job to assist in helping to prevent unnecessary or prolonged suffering. And you as the owner know your pet better than anyone, so what do you look for at home to help guide you to know when it is time?



There are many factors that play into the day to day quality of life of our pets. And some bad days are to be expected, but we never want the bad days to outnumber the good. Our goal is not to just lessen or stop suffering, but to prevent it. Pets can often be pretty stoic about pain so rather



than only looking for the obvious such as lameness, a limp, trouble getting up/on/off of things, also be aware of heightened anxiety. Things such as pacing, panting, whining, etc. can be a sign of increasing senility but may also be secondary to pain. Mobility issues become pretty common as many of our pets age and it can become challenging for them to be able to stand/squat while trying to urinate/defecate or get up and down on their own. Some of them may also become incontinent in terms of stool and urine. Other habits to pay attention to are things like attitude and appetite. If your pet typically is interactive, wanting to be near you, wanting to be pet, etc. and now they are isolating or avoiding contact, this can also be a sign of suffering. If they are a great eater or have

certain toys or foods they love that now are of little interest, they are not well. For many of them they want to please us and when they can't or don't, that is a sign of a quality of life decline.



When the time comes to let your pet go or they have passed, please give yourself time and space to grieve. It is a process and no one can tell you how to experience it. There is no too little or too much intensity, time, etc. There can be immense sadness, even guilt or anger, or depression. Be honest with yourself in your processing of your feelings and express them. Give yourself permission to grieve and do something to help bring yourself healing and joy. Maybe finding a way to memorialize your pet. Leaning on family and friends to work through your feelings can be a life saver. There are also websites and support groups to help.

What Time Is It Cont'd

As your veterinarian we can help evaluate not only your pet's physical health but also their overall condition. But you are going to be the best judge of their quality of life. You can always discuss things honestly with us and not worry about being judged. Though it will be never be and easy or painless decision to have to make, prolonging suffering isn't a help to either of you and we want to help where we can. We hope that you can reach out and feel comfortable allowing us to help you with the final act of love when the time comes.

**Did you know we offer Ozone Therapy for your Furkids?**

What is Ozone? It is three oxygen molecules (O₃), which when it is administered, breaks down to ordinary oxygen (O₂) that can combine with other things in the body to assist body to heal.

Free from side effects, this is a therapy that works in a number of ways. Ozone is a way to get increased oxygen in the body which has many health benefits. Ozone activates the immune system and brings easily soluble oxygen to target tissues. It is proven effective for treating viruses, fungi and bacteria, and for general health improvement anytime there is inflammation.

A few of the common uses of ozone are:

- It enhances other treatments for patients with medical conditions (digestive, liver, kidney, heart, brain, spinal cord problems or seizures)
- It aids and supports treatments for patients with infectious diseases or cancer.
- It decreases healing time for abscesses, wounds, mouth, and ear infections.

Ozone gas in dogs is commonly administered rectally since it is easily absorbed and goes to the liver for distribution throughout the body.

Ozone gas can be mixed with saline and administered topically or injected under the skin or into a vein.

If you have questions regarding Ozone Therapy for your pet, please call the office. Dr. Cheryl Caputo is certified to perform Ozone Therapy and travels to our hospital once a week to administer ozone to patients at the Animal Hospital of Dunedin.

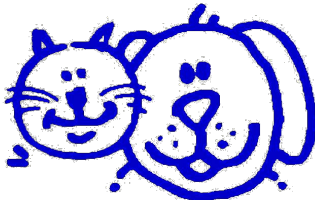
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\$1

First Exam - New Patient

(\$49-\$80 Savings)

Includes comprehensive physical exam and one vaccine. Does not include 3yr Rabies vaccine. Must be presented at the time of purchase. Coupon may not be combined with any other offer. NL



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-10%

10% Off Dental Cleaning

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Discount applies to anesthesia, prophylaxis, and any other dental radiographs or extractions that might be needed. Offer excludes required pre-dental labwork. May not be combined with any other coupons or discounts. Must be presented at the time of purchase. Expires 5.31.21 NL



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\$5 Off

\$5 off Bathing Services

Please call to schedule your appointment. All baths include shampooing, ear cleaning, pedicure, warm air drying, and brush out. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. Coupon may not be combined with any other offers. Expires 5.31.21 NL