

BigCreek PetHospital Beagle

Your Senior Pet

Deborah W. Fegan, DVM

How time flies in a meaningful relationship. Before you know it our four legged friends have reached their senior years. As a team, you and our staff have worked together to enter these years in the best possible shape. Although individual aging varies, most dogs are active seniors at 7 years and cats at 10 years. Just like in humans, special concerns begin to appear with age, and we will be right here with you to make these years golden.

Several things can be done to help preserve your pet's health. What "goes in" is always supremely important. Many good quality canine senior foods are now available. Glucosamine and chondroitin are known to protect joints, and can be added as a supplement to your pet's diet, but be aware that all products are not equal and there are many over-the-counter products that are not good. We have quality supplements and now have available an injectable product, Adequan®, that provides much more protection than can be delivered orally. It is a good option for animals that are predisposed to joint disease or are already struggling to get up or get sore after exercise. We can teach you to administer this at home. The sooner this is started the better. Please discuss this supplement with us, but know that we think it is essential to graceful aging.

Another area where nutrition improves aging is in the area of anti-radical vitamin supplementation. Many studies have shown that "radicals", one of the breakdown products of cell life, have an affinity for brain cells, and if enough of them attach to a brain cell, this cell will die. This is one of the reasons for the "confusion" of aging. "Anti-radicals" trap the radicals before they can bind with anything else and preserve those precious thinking cells.

Weight management becomes even more important with aging. Studies have proved that even weight of 10% above optimal can cost our friend 2 years of life, and in the senior years metabolism slows so weight gain is much easier. Recent studies have shown that fat cells are not benign; they are in fact active hormone producers. These hormones are directly responsible for encouraging such diseases as diabetes mellitus, osteoarthritis, respiratory disease and even cancer. If your pet is overweight, the fat cells themselves are working to prevent weight loss.

As always, early identification of disease conditions give us the best chance of long term management. Twice a year physical examinations and consultation will help us together identify early changes. Tools such as blood screens, urinalysis, blood and eye pressure monitoring, and x-rays may help us find disease before it is clinically making our friend sick. Together, we can design the best care plan for the friend who has been there for you.

16949 E. Bagley Road
Middleburg Heights, OH 44130
Phone: (440) 234-5831
Fax: (440) 243-9681
e-mail: BigCreekTeam@bigcreekpet.com
website: www.bigcreekpet.com

Volume III Issue 4
September 2009

**Want to learn how you can
help your senior pet live
healthy, happy golden years?**

Free Senior Pet Seminar

Wednesday September 16th, 6:30 to 7:30 pm

Come to a free Senior Pet Seminar, Wednesday, September 16th from 6:30pm until 7:30pm. You will learn from the Big Creek Team and 3 guest experts:

- How proper nutrition can give your pet up to two more years of life.
- What are the warning signs that your pet may be having age related problems and what you can do to help them?
- Can vitamins or supplements help your pet?
- How Big Creek's new Senior Wellness packages can help your pet live longer, happier lives and at an affordable cost.

Prizes

Every 7th person will receive a Spin on our Wheel of Fortune. Plus, everyone will receive a ticket to a drawing for a great prize. Get an extra chance when you bring a non-client friend.

Free Food

There will be snacks for all of our human friends who attend and a **free bag of pet food** for the first 20 families that attend.

BCPH Website Contest

Go to www.bigcreekpet.com and find the answer to the following question:

"How old is King Louie in 'people' years if he weighs 28 lbs. and is 14 years old?"



E-mail your response (from your personal e-mail account) with your name, address and phone number by 9/30/09 to:

BigCreekTeam@bigcreekpet.com

The winner (drawn from all correct entries) will receive a 6-month supply of Revolution® for one pet.

Announcing Affordable Senior Pet Wellness Plans

Want the best care for your special "senior friend" but have been concerned about how to pay for it? Just for you, we have developed several Senior Pet Wellness Plans. These plans combine exams, tests, and other services at discount, plus they can be paid for over a 12-month period. Please give us a call and we can explain the details of these plans: **440-234-5831**

Canine Senior Pet Wellness Plans

Description	Advanced	Superior	Elite
Exam – Senior Wellness	2	2	2
EKG Screen	1	1	2
Blood Pressure	1	1	2
Glaucoma Screening	1	1	2
Heartworm/Ehrlichia/Lyme test	1	1	1
Blood Chemistry (14 tests)	1	1	1
Blood Chemistry (6 tests)			1
CBC – Complete Blood Count	1	1	1
Bloodwork Thyroid T4 Test	1	1	1
Vaccination Titer Panel			1
Urinalysis (Routine Screen)	1		1
Urinalysis (Complete)		1	1
Early Renal Disease Testing			1
Fecal Examination	1	2	2
Chest X-Rays		1	1
Abdomen X-Rays			1
Vaccinations (Core & Received as Needed)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Total before Package Price	\$461.22	\$664.22	\$951.22
Package Price	\$411.00	\$592.00	\$788.00
Savings	\$50.22	\$72.22	\$163.22
Membership Down Payment	\$75.00	\$100.00	\$140.00
Monthly Fee (12 months)	\$28.00	\$41.00	\$54.00
Additional Discount on other services	5%	5%	10%

Feline Senior Pet Wellness Plans

Description	Advanced	Superior	Elite
Exam – Senior Wellness	2	2	2
EKG Screen	1	1	1
Blood Pressure	1	1	2
Blood Chemistry (14 tests)	1	1	1
Blood Chemistry (6 tests)			1
CBC – Complete Blood Count	1	1	1
Bloodwork Thyroid T4 Test	1	1	1
Vaccination Titer Panel			1
Urinalysis (Routine Screen)	1		1
Urinalysis (Complete)		1	1
Early Renal Disease Testing			1
Fecal Examination	1	2	2
Chest & Abdomen X-Rays		1	1
Vaccinations (Core & Received as Needed)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Total before Package Price	390.10	\$593.10	\$813.10
Package Price	\$327.00	\$508.00	\$670.00
Savings	\$63.10	\$85.10	\$143.10
Membership Down Payment	\$75.00	\$100.00	\$130.00
Monthly Fee (12 months)	\$21.00	\$34.00	\$45.00
Additional Discount on other services	5%	5%	10%

**Purchase a Senior Pet Wellness Package during our Senior Special
(September 14th – October 31st 2009)
and receive 1 or more \$20 Gift Certificates**

Advanced: 1 - \$20

Superior: 2 - \$20 (\$40 value)

Elite: 3 - \$20 (\$60 value)

Pay for the entire package at one time and receive:

Advanced: 2 Nights of Boarding (\$43 value)

Superior: Level 2 Diagnostic Exam (\$70 value)

Elite: FREE Exams all year

Animal Idol 2009

Thank you to all who helped turn Animal Idol 2009 into the HUGE success that it was! After our staff's months of planning and careful attention to detail, Animal Idol 2009 was not only a great time for all who attended, but also helped support a great cause in a big way.

Working Animals Giving Service for Kids, Incorporated (www.wags4kids.org) is a local charity that Big Creek Pet Hospital is pleased to support. Wendy Nelson, director, and her staff raise and train service dogs, then give them free of charge to area children with special needs. Animal Idol 2009 raised about \$1,000 for Wendy and her "W.A.G.S." dogs! We were also able to make a donation to Middleburg Heights Animal Foundation (www.MHAF.com).



Chuck Collier kept things moving in an orderly way.

Although the day started out rainy, the sun began to shine just in time for our talent show! Chuck Collier WGAR-FM radio personality was our celebrity emcee, and he did a great job bringing everything together and making things flow smoothly. We had many unique and talented pets performing all kinds of tricks that made the crowd go wild! After the talent show, while the judges were tallying the winners, we were treated to an exhibition by some of the "W.A.G.S." dogs who demonstrated how our donations will be used. Then each contestant was called up on stage to receive their prize (nearly a \$1000 of prizes were given away) and strut their stuff one last time!

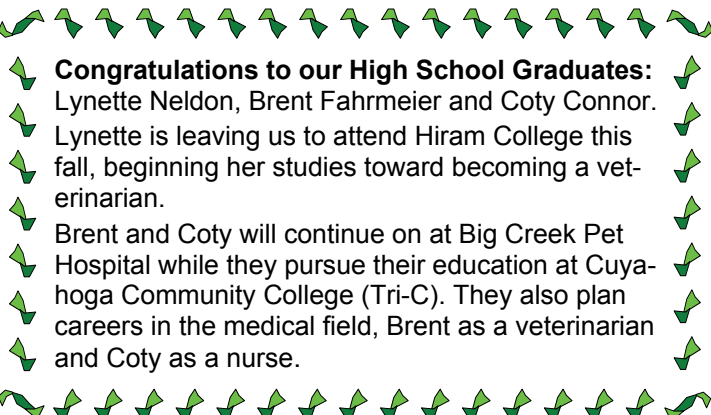
Thanks to all of our sponsors and volunteers for their contributions to our cause, and most of all to all who attended and helped us raise money for this deserving organization. Thank you and see you next year!



Josie Vonderau's "**Twink**" won the coveted "Animal Idol 2009" title.



Ray Inghram's "**Pookie Petals**" won the 2nd place prize package.


Congratulations to our High School Graduates:
 Lynette Neldon, Brent Fahrmeier and Coty Connor.
 Lynette is leaving us to attend Hiram College this fall, beginning her studies toward becoming a veterinarian.
 Brent and Coty will continue on at Big Creek Pet Hospital while they pursue their education at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C). They also plan careers in the medical field, Brent as a veterinarian and Coty as a nurse.

Safety Town

Our staff assisted in educating over 150 preschool children from Middleburg Heights and Berea safety town programs this summer. For many years, we have taught community children the importance of how to react to a loose dog in the parks as they play.

The wise old owl in our puppet show teaches the silly monkey how to behave around a loose dog. After the puppet show, the children have an opportunity to "stand like a tree" with our special golden retrievers, Buckeye and Fagin. Gucci, the afghan hound, joined in the fun as well this year.

Also, we teach the children how to approach a leashed dog with its owner by asking, "May we pat your dog?". It is very important to the staff of Big Creek Pet Hospital to educate and ensure the safety of the children in our community.



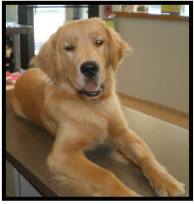
Some of the children who attended Berea's Safety Town program are pictured with our staff members, Rebecca, Buckeye and Gucci.

Fun Facts

- There are more than 100 million dogs and cats in the United States.
- Cats, not dogs, are the most common pets in America. There are approximately 66 million cats to 58 million dogs, with Parakeets a distant third at 14 million.
- Contrary to popular belief, dogs do not sweat by salivating. They sweat through the pads of their feet.
- Cats will never break a sweat because they don't have sweat glands.
- The longest lived dog, according to the Guinness Book of World Records, was an Australian Cattle Dog, named Bluey, who lived to be 29.
- Cats can spend five or more hours a day grooming themselves.
- An American Animal Hospital Association poll showed that 33 percent of dog owners admit that they talk to their dogs on the phone or leave messages on an answering machine while away.
- Cats love to hear the sound of their own name and their owner's voice; 95% of cat owners admit that they talk to their cats.



Welcome Fagin Fegan!



Fagin is the newest addition to the Fegan household, a golden retriever who can often be seen following Ed Fegan around our clinic or lounging in Ed's office. Fagin enjoys his new home with Dr. Fegan and her family.

Fagin has learned some impressive skills. He has been trained to touch doors to check if they are hot, which can help save his family during a fire. And, he knows how to "STOP, DROP and ROLL", a very important fire safety skill to remember. Fagin recently demonstrated these skills for the children attending the Safety Town programs in Berea and Middleburg Heights.

Fagin is a born retriever; toss a ball and sit back and wait as he returns it to your feet! The next time you visit Big Creek Pet Hospital, you might get to meet the newest member of the Fegan Family – Fagin!

Do you have a group (Scout troop, 4-H Club, etc.) that would like to visit Big Creek Pet Hospital? Call us to arrange a tour: 440-234-5831

Xylitol Poisoning Alert

According to the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center and the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), dog owners should be aware that products containing xylitol, a widely used sweetener in chewing gum, candies, baked goods, toothpastes and other products, can potentially cause serious and even life-threatening problems if ingested by their pets.

Big Creek Pet Hospital recommends that any product containing xylitol needs to be kept out of reach of dogs.

If your dog ingests any amount of xylitol, call us immediately: 440-234-5831

After hours, call the Animal Emergency Clinic: 216-362-6000

It is not known at this time if xylitol affects other domestic animals such as cats. Xylitol is considered safe for human consumption.

**Inside:
Senior Pet Issue
Win 6 Months of Revolution!
Animal Idol 2009 Re-cap**

16949 E. Bagley Road
Middleburg Heights, OH 44130
Phone: (440) 234-5831

**BigCreek
PetHospital**