

## Health News

Microsoft

Ahhh... The Golden Years. Many of you may have pets that have reached this stage in life or are rapidly approaching it. What can you do to make sure your pet stays happy and healthy for as long as possible? Annual or even Bi-Annual Wellness exams are the first step. During this exam our doctors can evaluate things like vision, lumps and bumps, as well as mobility. We can perform routine blood work on your pet to diagnose potential metabolic problems or manage ongoing conditions. We may even recommend medications that can keep your animal more limber! As they say: "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Please don't hesitate to ask any of our staff members what we can do to help ease your loved ones into retirement.

## Ask Coco

Dear Coco,

My human turned the squirt bottle



Coco, The Village Vet Pet

on me today because I was knocking things off her dresser. Those diamond earrings are so shiny!!! Beside, I'm terribly bored and I can't help myself.

-Webster Wildcat

Dear Wild,

It sounds like you have a case of cabin fever. Let's face it, even though the winter has been mild this year, it's still cold. No animal, be they two-legged or four-legged, wants to spend much time out there. Kitties like to prowl their territory.

Our humans can help us fur-babies with boredom. How? PLAY! Kitties should have lots of different toys: catnip toys and wands are always good to have. Your human can wave the wand around for you. Not only does it entertain you, it provides quality time with you and your human. When your human is not home, you can entertain yourself with a catnip toy or jingly ball.

## Meet The Breed!



The **Briard** is an ancient breed of large herding dog, originally from France. They were originally bred to herd as well as guard flocks of sheep. This breed has double dewclaws mounted low on each rear leg, resembling additional toes. The additional digits give the Briard the ability of pivoting on one foot for quick turns and complete turn-arounds, which are necessary when herding and guarding their flocks. The Briard is a very loyal and protective breed, and is sometimes called "a heart of gold wrapped in fur".

(Source: [www.akc.org/dog-breeds/briard](http://www.akc.org/dog-breeds/briard))

## Case of the month



"Niner"

Meet Niner! Dr. Moore first met Niner as a very ill little 8 month-old kitten. Niner had episodes of intense drooling, lethargy, difficulty breathing, and urinary accidents. He was also very small for his age! An examination, blood work and x-rays did not show any abnormalities. It was a urinalysis that gave Dr. Moore her first clue! She identified many Ammonium Biurate crystals which are typically found in patients with liver disease. A specific blood test called a "Bile Acid Test" showed that Niner's liver wasn't functioning normally. Niner was diagnosed with a "Portosystemic Liver Shunt", a rare condition in young animals that results in abnormal blood flow to and from the liver. Since Niner's liver had difficulty filtering and eliminating bodily toxins, they accumulated and triggered his clinical signs. Sometimes surgery is needed to correct the defect but a diet change and medications helped Niner decrease his toxin level. Niner is now a happy, energetic kitty who fully enjoys play time and naps in the sunshine!

## FEBRUARY IS DENTAL HEALTH MONTH!

Schedule your pet's dental cleaning in **February** and receive **10% off!**