

# THE ADVOCATE

Animal Medical Clinic  
November 2005

The last 25% of the year is always marked by the changing of the colors. The leaves are falling and the acorns are all on the ground. The grass is beginning to brown and most of the flowers are now gone. Has anyone else noticed the changes in the last 25 percent of their own life? The color has changed and things are definitely falling!

## SENIOR AT SEVEN

Our pets experience many of the same changes in their health and bodies that we do in our senior years. That is why we started the 'Senior at Seven' program. We are dedicated to extending the quality of the short lives of our pets as long as possible. In order for us to be able to do that, we must focus on finding problems as early as possible.

Many of you brought in your senior pets for exams and workups during our October 'Senior at Seven' month. The most interesting part is that although most of these seniors seemed to be doing well, almost 50% had some abnormalities in their lab work that neither the doctor nor the owner suspected. The first one that comes to mind is "Abby". Her blood work came back showing her thyroid levels were low and that she needed thyroid supplementation. She has now been on supplements for just 2 weeks and her owner reports that she can already see a difference in her hair coat. Often, we see changes that are incorrectly attributed to age when it is actually an age related disease that can be corrected. We need to learn to ask the questions 'Why?' and "What?" before we assume it's 'just age'. "Why is it happening" and "What can be done about it" are the first steps to finding the answers we need.



Throughout the year AMC offers a Senior Wellness Workup with a 20% discount included. The group of diagnostic procedures include an EKG, wellness examination and consultation, in-house blood chemistries, complete blood count, glaucoma check, urine analysis, early detection of renal disease test and chest x-rays.

An interesting statistic from a study that I recently read said that the average onset of kidney disease in our pets is when they are 7 years old. It also said between 6-11 years of age almost 60% of our patients die.

Based on everything we have seen, the benefits to our pets – and their owners – is being greatly enhanced by the effectiveness of modern medicine. Please help us take full advantage of how our lives and the lives of our pets can benefit.

Hill's Pet Nutrition has developed an outstanding website for the pet owner that addresses the special needs of our senior pets that we think you will find very informative. That website is [www.maturepets.com](http://www.maturepets.com).

"Blessed is the person who has earned the love of an old dog."  
- Sydney Jeanne Seward



## HOOD COUNTY ANIMAL CLINIC and ANIMAL MEDICAL CLINIC MERGE

The biggest news we have this month is that Animal Medical Clinic and Hood County Animal Clinic are now ONE! Dr. Mullican and I have agreed to join these two practices so he can "retire". His retirement will be that he will not work as much or have as many meetings, but he will continue to be part of the AMC healthcare team even after the merger.

I am very excited about the future of these two practices being together. I have appreciated Dr. Mullican and his group at Animal Medical Clinic since I came to Granbury three years ago. He has always practiced a very high quality of medicine and he is a very moral and ethical person. I look forward to us working together in continuing to improve the healthcare for the pets in this part of the state. The staff at AMC is outstanding. Dr. Hardwick, Dr. McCall and Jennifer Inbody, the Hospital Administrator, as well as the rest of their healthcare team are extremely good at what they do. I truly appreciate that Dr. Mullican selected us to continue the tradition of excellence at Animal Medical Clinic.

Our sincere **THANKS** to all our wonderful clients and their furry friends as this Thanksgiving season is here.

*Don C. Miller, DVM and  
the entire healthcare team at  
Animal Medical Clinic and Hood County Animal Clinic*