



Senior Health in Companion Animals

Bethany McDonald

1402 Pisgah Road, Tazewell, Virginia 24651



About Crab Orchard Veterinary Services, Inc

Crab Orchard Veterinary Services is in the southwestern portion of Virginia in the beautiful Appalachian Mountains across the highway from the Historic Crab Orchard Museum located in Tazewell, Virginia. Crab Orchard Veterinary Services, Inc was founded in 2008 by Dr. Anne Yearians, a Virginia Tech and VMRCVM alumna.

COVS is a full service large and small animal practice. This includes dentals, surgery for small animals, field surgeries for large animals, a facility for cattle working, in-house and send out laboratory testing, and boarding facility.



Crab Orchard Veterinary Services, Inc

Introduction

This summer, I worked as a kennel assistant and curb attendant. I completed my capstone project along with working full-time. During this time, I got hands-on experience by assisting with blood draws, direct communication with clients and furthering my knowledge of why senior wellness panels in companion animals is crucial. The goal of my capstone was to create a senior wellness program to promote the importance of senior wellness animal testing and the importance of yearly visits to the veterinarian and diagnostic testing, along with the health concerns associated with aging animals and collect data from the results.



Patient included in the study (left) and the food recommended after the senior panel results (right)

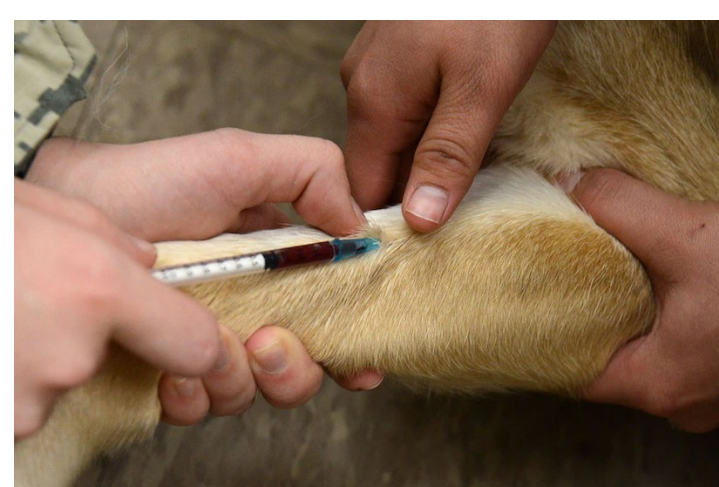


Methods and Materials

- Recorded animal's species, weights, age, and breed
- Assisted with handling of patients and blood draws.
- Patients were elected by owners and recommended by a veterinarian to participate in a senior wellness screening.
- 22 companion animals participated during the summer
- Blood was obtained by venipuncture of the cephalic vein, medial saphenous vein, or jugular vein with 21G, 23G, 25G needles which varied by patient.
- The values were then analyzed at IDEXX lab at various times throughout the summer taking about 6 weeks to obtain results.



IDEXX ProCyte Dx



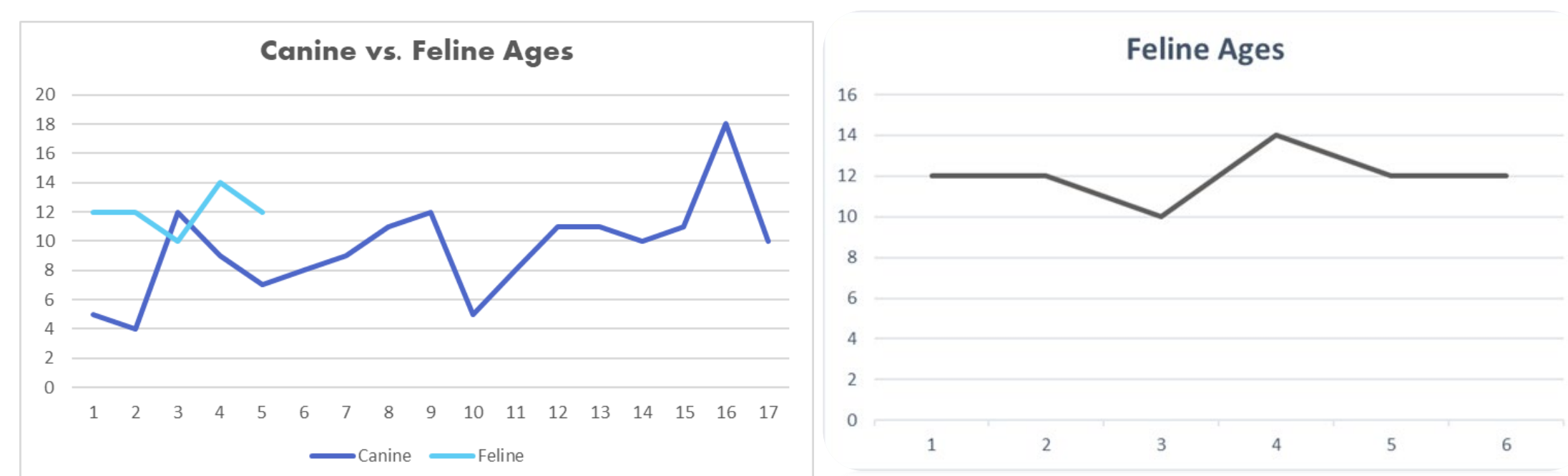
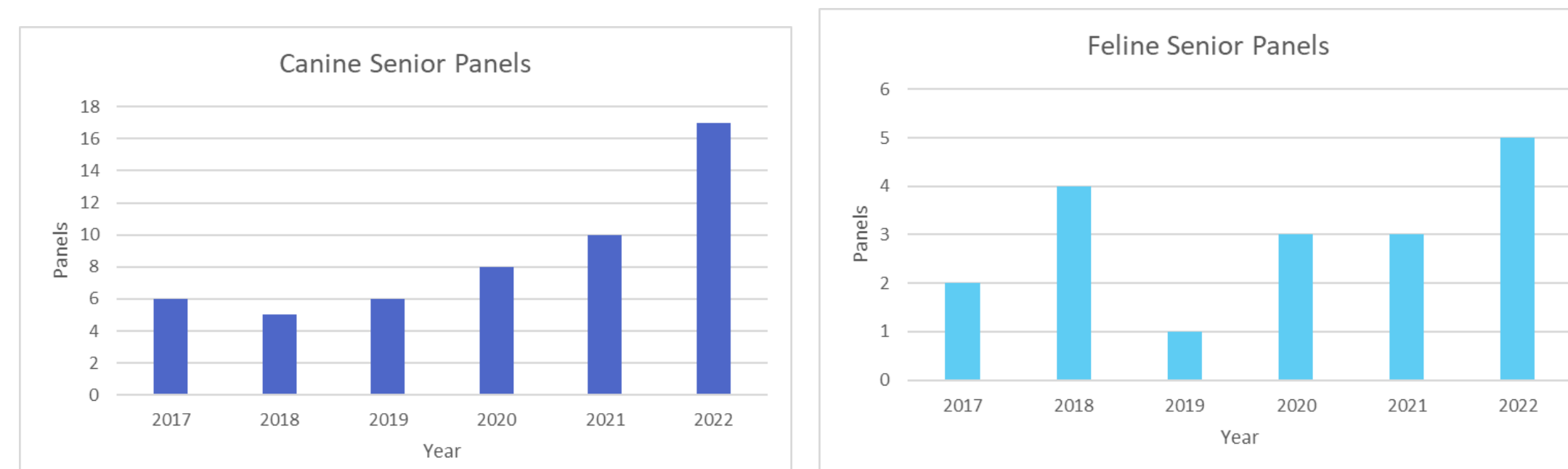
Blood draw of the cephalic vein



IDEXX Catalyst One

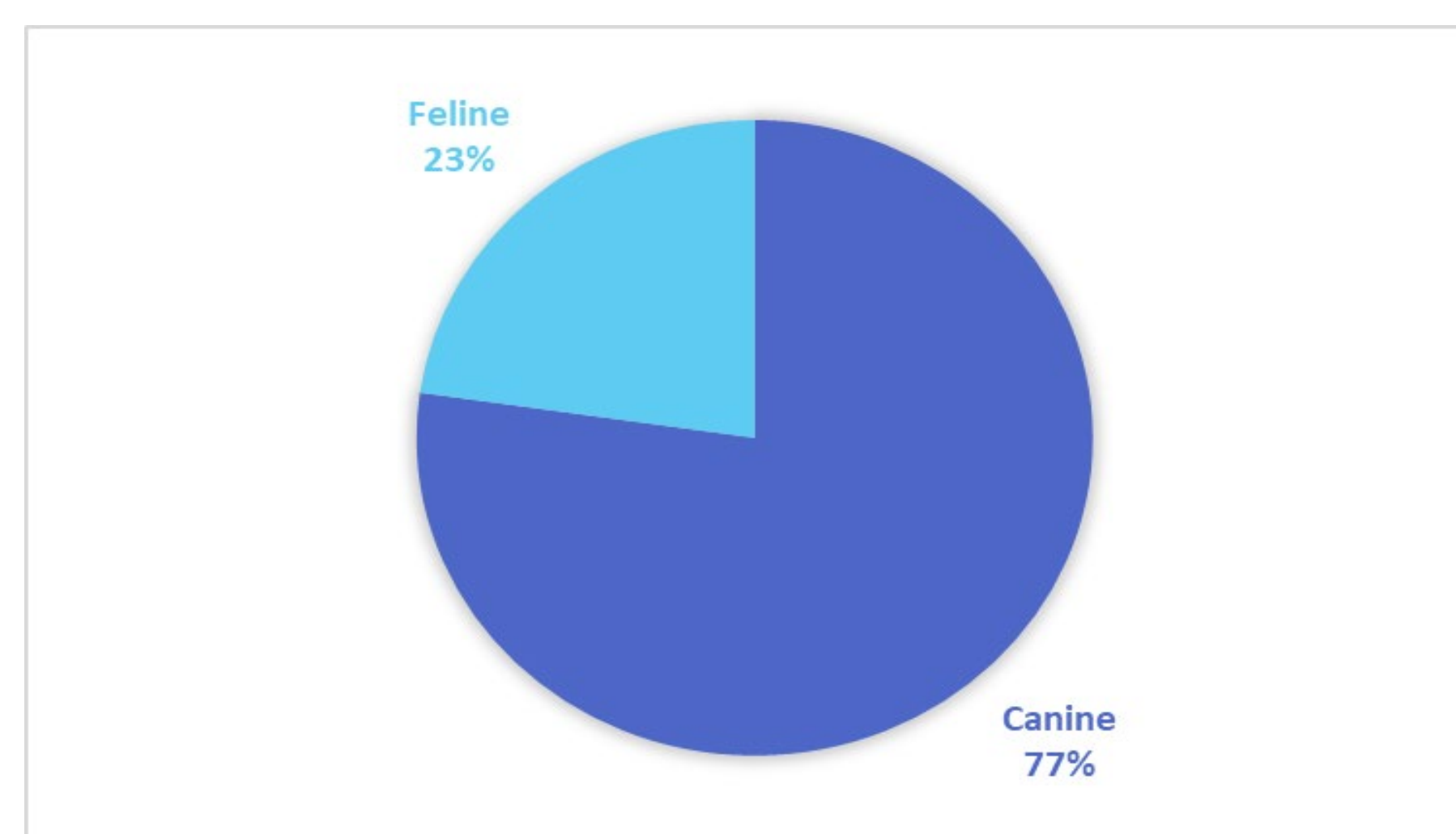
Results

- The present study was completed to see if educating clients about rising health problems associated with aging animals would give them a better understanding of why blood testing is important and bringing focus to senior animal health to ensure the best quality of life.
- Overall, when comparing the years 2017-2021 to 2022 there was an average 157.8 % increase in completion of senior canine panels and 141.7 % increase in feline senior panels.
- When evaluating canines to felines. The ages of the canines varied between 4 and 18 years of age with an average of 9.7 and the ages of the felines varied between 10-14 years of age. Feline ages were higher with an average of 12 compared to canines' which was 9.7.



		Age	Weight
1 Canine	Australian Shepherd	5	33.6
2 Canine	Labrador Retriever	4	44.8
3 Canine	Boston Terrier	12	24
4 Canine	Daschshund	9	23.5
5 Canine	Pomeranian	7	10.5
6 Canine	Siberian Husky	8	42.9
7 Canine	Maltese	9	14.7
8 Canine	Yorkshire Terrier	11	8.7
9 Canine	Maltese Mix	12	14.5
10 Canine	Mixed Canine	5	59.5
11 Canine	Mixed Canine	8	104.5
12 Canine	Mixed Canine	11	34
13 Canine	Dachshund Mix	11	15.2
14 Canine	Miniature Poodle	10	10.5
14 Canine	Papillion	11	16.5
16 Canine	Mixed Canine	18	15.2
17 Canine	Australian Shepherd Mix	10	39.2

		Age	Weight
1 Feline	Domestic Medium Hair	12	4.2
2 Feline	Domestic Longhair	12	11.3
3 Feline	Domestic Longhair	10	9.3
4 Feline	Domestic Shorthair	14	9.1
5 Feline	Domestic Shorthair	12	6.5



Work Experience

- Improvement of communication skills and crucial decision making
- The ability to properly restrain animals
- To complete blood draws, apply bandages, understand the various diagnostic tests.
- Properly handling dogs on leashes and safety handling cats in carriers
- Improving my skills of giving injections

Work Experience

- Assisted with various treatment plans with the goal of improving the overall health of senior animals, and the importance of year visits
- The clinic is made up of 3 full time doctors and one part time doctor with a high volume of clients seen each day so team effort is crucial for this clinic to function.
- Assist with nail trims, proper restraint and accurate communication on the behalf of the doctors.
- Discussed the various senior panel offered and established a senior wellness program

Conclusion

Although I've worked at Crab Orchard Veterinary Services for three and a half years I benefited from the experience. It allowed me to apply the knowledge I have received to real world applications, improve my leadership skills, gain hands-on experience and gave me a better understanding of the various blood profile tests that can be completed on dogs and cats at various stages of life. This project allowed to me better understand the various diseases that can come about with aging animals and with annual blood testing it can save a pet's life and reassure the owner that their pet is getting the best care possible. I would like to take Dr. Anne and all of my coworkers' that assisted with this project at Crab Orchard Veterinary Services!

Senior Wellness Brochure

Brochure front (left) and back (right) that was distributed to clients

Senior Pet Health

COMMON HEALTH PROBLEMS OF SENIOR ANIMALS

ASK US ABOUT SENIOR WELLNESS SCREENING

Having a companion is important, but their overall health...

CONTACT US

276-988-8080
craborchardvet@comcast.net
1402 Pisgah Road
Tazewell, VA

OUR BUSINESS HOURS
MON, TUE, THUR & SAT 9AM - 5PM
WED & SAT 9AM - 12PM
SUN CLOSED

Signs of aging pets

- Frequent urination
- Change in appetite
- Sleeping more
- Difficulty getting up or walking, having trouble going to the bathroom
- Behavior changes
- Bad breath
- Bumps or lumps on the skin

What is a senior wellness screenings?

It is a panel of tests that provides information about the organs and tissues of the body, and helps to detect diabetes, kidney disease, liver disease, and other disorders

Does my pet age like I do?

Senior screening, getting a pet checked to see if they can be difficult to think of them getting older, but animals age differently than humans.

Is an owner of age for a dog and cat it is equivalent to 15 HUMAN YEARS!

As your pet gets older another dog's age about that long or even longer. For example, a small breed like a Chihuahua is considered a senior at age 7.

Ask your vet about appointments, veterinary specialty services!

"My face may be white but my heart is pure gold. There is no shame in growing old."
-Unknown

"An animal's eyes have the power to speak a great language."
-Martin Butler

Acknowledgements

Dr. Anne Yearians, President/CEO, DVM
Crab Orchard Veterinary Services, Inc
1402 Pisgah Road
Tazewell, Virginia 24630

Dr. Lois Wallace-Ingram, DVM
Crab Orchard Veterinary Services, Inc
1402 Pisgah Road
Tazewell, Virginia



Dr. Anne Yearians at the IFSHA World & Grand National Championships in Springfield, Ohio (above)

Literature Cited

Importance of Bloodwork for senior pets: Bridge Park Animal Hospital. Bridge Park Animal Hospital | Top Veterinarian in Johns Creek, GA | Animal Hospital. (2021, November 9). Retrieved October 14, 2022, from <https://www.bpanimalhospital.com/post/the-importance-of-bloodwork-for-senior-pets/> #The Importance of Bloodwork for Senior Pets

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