

## **Stem Cell Therapy: A New Technique In Senior Care**

**Many strides have been taken in the recent past to provide a greater quality of life for senior patients. It was only 12 years ago that the Food and**

**Drug Administration approved the first non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug that could be used specifically for canine use.**

**At that time, it was considered a break through in providing pain management to an aging pet population that has increased in numbers from about 20% to 25%.**

**That type of research has continued and today there is a new therapy available that may prove useful in other venues of medicine because animals are frequently used as medical models for human medicine. The procedure described today is something called Fatty Stem Cell Therapy (adipose derived regenerative cell therapy). It is being used on dogs, cats and horses by over 1000 veterinarians when the pet has few other medical options to control the pain brought on by geriatric diseases.**

**At the present time, the procedure is FDA approved only for the treatment of osteoarthritis in pets, however, there is a belief that in the future it could be used to prevent conditions like hip dysplasia and degenerative diseases of other organ systems. The procedure involves taking fat cells from a patients body, processing them by a special laboratory, and injecting the prepared stem cells back into the body intravenously or directly into affected joints. These cells then regenerate affected tissue.**

**This procedure is an exciting advance as it provides a non invasive way to treat patients that would otherwise need joint replacement. It is still in the early stages of practical use, however, it does provide the veterinary profession with yet another tool in it's goal to improve and extend the life of the animals who enrich our lives.**