

Why Pets Hide Illness

Family Matters

One of the greatest challenges in veterinary medicine is that our patients can't tell us when something hurts.

In fact, many do the opposite.

They hide it.

At Amity, one of the most important things we teach pet guardians is this:

Pets are incredibly good at hiding illness.

By the time many animals show obvious signs that something is wrong, they may have been living with the problem for days, weeks or even months.

That's why our purpose is to **Empower You Through Education**, helping you recognise the subtle signs before they become serious problems.

Why Do Pets Hide Illness?

It all comes down to instinct.

In the wild, an animal showing weakness is more vulnerable to predators and may lose their place within the group.

Over thousands of years, dogs and cats evolved to disguise pain and illness for as long as possible.

Although our pets now live safe, comfortable lives, those instincts remain.

The Signs Are Often Subtle

Illness rarely begins dramatically.

More often, you'll notice small changes such as:

- Sleeping more than usual.
- Becoming quieter.
- Eating a little less.
- Drinking more water.
- Wanting shorter walks.
- Climbing the stairs more slowly.

- Hiding more often.
- Playing less.
- Becoming clingier—or more independent.
- Simply seeming "not quite themselves."

Each change may seem insignificant on its own, but together they can tell an important story.

Trust Your Instincts

One of the most valuable things a pet guardian can say is:

"Something just isn't right."

You may not know what's wrong.

You don't need to.

You know your pet better than anyone else, and if their behaviour has changed, it's worth listening to your instincts.

Those subtle observations often provide us with our most important clues.

Don't Assume It's Old Age

It's easy to blame slowing down on getting older.

Sometimes age plays a part.

But arthritis, dental disease, heart disease, kidney disease, hormonal disorders and many other conditions can all begin gradually.

Many of these can be successfully treated or managed, especially when identified early.

Growing older should never automatically mean accepting discomfort.

Early Detection Makes a Difference

The earlier we recognise a problem, the more options we often have.

Early diagnosis can mean:

- Simpler treatment.
- Better outcomes.
- Less discomfort.
- Lower costs.
- More healthy years together.

That's why regular health checks are just as important for pets that appear healthy as they are for those that seem unwell.

Helping You Read the Signs

At Amity, we believe our role isn't simply to diagnose disease.

It's to help you understand your pet.

That's why **Amity Essential Membership includes unlimited health checks**. If you've noticed even a small change, we'd much rather examine your pet and reassure you than miss an opportunity to detect a problem early.

Your pet may not be able to tell you they're unwell.

But they're communicating every day through their behaviour.

The better you understand their language, the better you'll be able to care for them.

Because they're not just your pet.

They're family.

Family Matters.

If you need more information, book an appointment with an Amity vet. We're here to Empower You Through Education and help you become your pet's greatest advocate.