

SENIOR DOGS

How you can care for your pet during the senior years

Helpful Tips

- Take your dog to the Vet for twice-yearly check ups.
- Learn about diseases & conditions common to senior dogs & keep an eye out for symptoms so that you can tell your Vet.
- Feed your dog the best food you can afford & feed twice a day, if possible.
- Do not over-feed your senior dog, obesity causes many health problems & these can shorten your dog's life.
- Consider giving dietary supplements that your Vet may recommend.
- Continue giving your dog regular exercise, according to their capacity.
- Keep up the Vaccination schedule that your Vet recommends as appropriate for your dog.
- Give your dog supportive, warm bedding.
- Remember the senior dogs suffer more in extreme heat & cold, as compared to younger dogs.
- Give them lots of attention and do your best to keep them active, happy & comfortable.



Is my dog getting old?

As dogs get older, they experience changes very similar to humans - greying hair, reduced reflexes, diminished hearing, eye sight & sense of smell, as well as a lack of energy and more need for rest. In large breed dogs, these signs can begin to show around 8 years old or sometimes earlier. Just like humans, the ageing process varies with each dog.

How age effects your dog

Some of the behavioural changes we see in older dogs can have medical causes. A dog with arthritis pain may get upset when touched, a dog with cataracts may feel anxious about reducing vision, a dog that cannot hear well may seem to be ignoring you, & a dog with incontinence issues may have accidents around the house.

Speak to your Veterinarian

Some of the effects of old age on dogs are unavoidable and just need to be managed, but don't assume that's always the case. Speak to your Vet about any changes - they may be able to help your dog live a more comfortable life in their senior years.