

Caring For Your Older Dog

Advances in veterinary Science have increased the life expectancy of dogs. With increased life expectancy the care of the older dog needs special consideration.

Signs of Aging

Greying around the muzzle, Hair may become coarse, Eyes change colour, Increased sleeping, More sedentary behavior, Difficulty moving, Reduced appetite, Cognitive functioning may change. Senses deteriorate.

As your dog ages these medical conditions may develop;

Thyroid Disease — increased weight, intolerance to exercise and the dog seeks warmth.

Liver Disease—weight loss, jaundice, vomiting, diarrhoea.

Cancers—lumps, weight loss, lethargy, poor appetite, diarrhoea, vomiting. The type will determine the symptoms.

Arthritis— swelling, lameness muscle wastage, limited range of movement.

Diabetes— increased frequency of drinking and urinating. May also be symptoms of kidney disease.

Dental problems—pawing at mouth, difficulty chewing and unpleasant breath.

Heart and Respiratory disease—low tolerance to exercise, coughing, breathing difficulty and lethargy.

Cognitive Behavioural Dysfunction—disorientation, pacing and strange vocalisations.

Remember your old dog needs more regular checkups with the vet who may want to include blood screenings regularly.



Top Tips To Help You Care For Your Older Dog

Regular Veterinary Checkups

Continue your vaccinations, worming, heartworm, flea and tick regimes.

Check your dogs teeth and gums regularly and seek veterinary care for any sign of a problem.

Continue your grooming routine.

Maintain an exercise routine. It may need to be modified so please discuss with your vet.

Ensure a good diet; there may be special dietary formulas that can help your dog so discuss with the vet.

Make modifications to support the dog with failing senses

Give your older dog emotional support in difficult situations such as with children or young puppies.

Make sure your old dog is kept cool in summer and warm in winter.

Give extra love and attention to your old dog and give him/her that extra blanket or lash out and have him/her on your bed..

For more information on caring for older dogs go to

<http://www.purina.co.uk/Home/All+About+Dogs/Health+Wellbeing+Dog/Health>

http://www.dogslife.com.audogs_life_articles?cid=9452&pid=927656

