

Caring for a Senior Dog or Cat

There are times in our lives that we are fortunate to have our furry companions live for a long time, but as they age, their needs change. It can sometimes be a stressful and challenging process, but with a little extra patience and knowledge, you can make their Golden Years full of happiness and love.



- Keep in mind physical issues like senility, and weight

- that, as dogs and cats age, they begin to have humans. Arthritis, loss of hearing and vision, changes are very common.
- Cats and dogs rely on their survival instincts more than we do, but they still may need a helping hand. If you used to take your dog to the dog park, that may no longer be a good idea because other dogs may take advantage of your dog's inability to defend itself like it used to. Play is very helpful to keep minds sharp, but keep it safe for them to avoid injury.
 - Look into pet insurance as vet bills will most likely increase over time. Ask your veterinarian's administrative assistant which insurances have been the easiest to work with for the office and the patients' caretakers.
 - Senior cats are prone to strokes, due to thinning blood vessels. If your cat is having a stroke, he or she cannot hear or see you but feel any stress. It is important to remain calm and hold and pet your cat until the stroke is complete. Like humans, there is not much first-aid one can do for a stroke victim but keep them comfortable. Contact your veterinarian after the stroke has subsided and your cat is relaxing again.

For more information:

<https://www.avma.org/public/PetCare/Pages/Caring-for-an-Older-Pet-FAQs.aspx>