The Golden Years

Caring for your Senior Pet

Dr. Eisenhauer
Who counts as a senior?

Common Rule of Thumb: Multiply the age of your pet (in human years) by 7 = age of your pet in dog/cat years.
Who counts as a senior?
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<tr>
<th>Canine Age</th>
<th>A Dog’s Age in Human Years</th>
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<td>Up to 20lbs</td>
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*Chart developed by Dr Fred Metzger, DVM, State College, Pennsylvania.*

www.dog-care-knowledge.com
Who counts as a senior?

Fun Senior Fact:

Charts courtesy of Fred Metzger, DVM, DABVP, University of Pennsylvania
What is special about Seniors?

GOALS OF THE SEMINAR

1) Learn to identify symptoms and signs to look for that may be early indicators of disease in aging pets.
2) Talk about changing nutritional needs of senior animals.
3) Discuss ways to identify and manage arthritis in senior dogs and cats.
4) Learn the signs of senility and declining cognitive function in senior animals, and what we can do to help it.
5) Tips on how to make life easier for the senior pets we share our lives with.
Celebrate our Seniors!

Helo, 7 years
Common Conditions in Senior Pets
Eyes

Nuclear Sclerosis
Cataract
Dry Eye
Glaucoma
Blindness
Oral Health

85% of Dogs and Cats over 6 years of age have some form of dental disease!

Periodontal disease
Gingivitis
Masses
Heart and Lungs

- Heart disease
- Pneumonia
- Bronchitis
Internal Organs

- Kidney Disease
- Liver disease
- Diabetes mellitus
- Thyroid Problems
- Adrenal Gland Problems – Cushing’s and Addison’s
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Colitis
Skin

Lumps
Bleeding or Irritated Skin
Masses
Musculoskeletal

- Arthritis
- Hip Dysplasia + Degenerative Joint Disease
- Muscle Loss
- Back Problems

- More on this later....
When to Call the Vet's Office?

If you start to notice your pet is...

- Interacting less with family and familiar friends
- Responding less often or less enthusiastically
- Showing changes in activity level
- Having difficulty climbing stairs or jumping
- Limping, or acting stiff more of the time
- Drinking and/or urinating more often
- Changing it’s eating patterns
- Showing noticeable weight gain or weight loss
- Losing housetraining - accidents in the house outside of the litter box
- Changing sleeping patterns, becoming confused or disoriented
- Having bad breath and/or swollen gums
- Found to have new lumps, bumps, or changes in the skin and coat
- Showing tremors or shaking