

A Healthy Path For Older Pets

As your pet ages, there are simple steps you can take to give them the extra care they may need. **Tips from the American Veterinary Medical Association** (on back) can help keep your pet on a healthy path. The CareCredit healthcare credit card is a financing solution that can help you keep your budget on a healthy path, too.

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Care Considerations For Older Pets

The following tips for senior pet care are provided courtesy of the **American Veterinary Medical Association**. For more answers to specific questions about your senior pet, be sure to consult your veterinarian.



INCREASED VETERINARY CARE

Geriatric pets should have semiannual veterinary visits instead of annual visits so signs of illness or other problems can be detected early and treated. Senior pet exams are similar to those for younger pets but are more in-depth, and they may include dental care, blood work and specific checks for physical signs of diseases that are more likely in older pets.

DIET & NUTRITION

Geriatric pets often need foods that are more readily digested, have different calorie levels and ingredients, and contain anti-aging nutrients.

WEIGHT CONTROL

Weight gain in geriatric dogs increases the risk of health problems, whereas weight loss is a bigger concern for geriatric cats.

PARASITE CONTROL

Older pets' immune systems are not as healthy as those of younger animals; as a result, they can't fight off diseases or heal as fast as younger pets.

MAINTAINING MOBILITY

As with older people, keeping older pets active through appropriate exercise helps keep them healthier and more mobile.

VACCINATION

Your pet's vaccination needs may change with age. Talk to your veterinarian about a vaccination program for your geriatric pet.

MENTAL HEALTH

Pets can show signs of senility. Stimulating their brains through interactions can help keep them mentally active. If you notice any changes in your pet's behavior, please consult your veterinarian.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Older pets may need changes in their lifestyle, such as sleeping areas to avoid stairs or more time indoors. Disabled pets have special needs that can be discussed with your veterinarian.

REPRODUCTIVE DISEASES

Non-neutered/non-spayed geriatric pets are at higher risk of mammary, testicular and prostate cancers.



A few extra steps. Aging pets may need extra care but it can be easier when you know what to expect and how to prepare. For example, there are special steps you should take when introducing a new pet to a senior pet. Be sure to ask your veterinarian for details.

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