



Tips Help You Care for Older Pets

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DENVER (MyFOXColorado.com) - Aging animals need special care. Dr Dean Vicksman has tips that can help your pet ease into those geriatric years:

Large breed dogs are considered geriatric at 6 or 7 years of age while small dogs are typically not considered geriatric until they are 11 or 12. Cats have variable life spans and may not be considered geriatric until they are in their teens.

For senior pet, it is best to have regular exams with the veterinarian at least twice yearly. These exams should include more advanced diagnostics like early detection blood tests and x-rays.

Probably the most common reason our pets don't move as well as they used to, is due to arthritis. As humans and dogs grow older, the incidence of arthritis increases. Nearly 50 percent of people 65 and older have arthritis. Likewise, the incidence of canine arthritis doubles in dogs older than 7.

It's important for pet owners to pay attention to the signs of arthritis pain. Initial signs may be very subtle. Affected dogs may tire easily on walks; limp, lag behind or appear stiff after activity; be reluctant to climb steps or jump up; or be slow to rise from a resting position.

Aspirin, ibuprofen and other human medications should not be given to your pets, without talking to your veterinarian first, because they can lead to painful stomach ulcers or even life-threatening toxicity.

A soft, warm bed can help soothe aches and pains. A good orthopedic bed is best. Also a ramp to help your dog in and out of the car, or up the stairs, will make their difficult climb or jump easier. Elevating their dog bowls will also allow them to eat and drink without stooping.

For more information about the items featured on Good Day Colorado you can go to:

Evans East Animal Hospital

5353 E Evans Ave
Denver, CO 80222
303-757-7881

Denver Area Veterinary Medical Society

191 Yuma Street
Denver, CO 80203
303-318-0447

BuddyBeds, LLC

875 South Colorado Blvd.
Suite 701
Denver, CO 80209
303-744-0424

Help'EM UP Harness

44 Central Street
Suite 510
Denver, CO 80211
303-477-2200

Take a look at these articles for more information on caring for an older pet.

- [Geriatric Pets](#)
- [The Pet Center](#)
- [Caring for Older Dogs](#)
- [How to Love Geriatric Pets](#)
- [Geriatric Cat Care](#)

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