Aging facts for pet parents!



"Slowing down" is not a part of the aging process

Older pets that are "slowing down" may have a serious underlying illness that when identified and treated early, may result in a better long-term prognosis.

Watch out for "ADR"

If you notice your pet seems more sluggish, slower to get up, not eating as much (sometimes just taking longer to finish a meal), less interactive with family members, or is just ADR (ain't doin' right!), see your family veterinarian for a thorough examination.

Not even cats are safe from this disease

Did you know that cats get arthritis, too? If you notice your cat is having trouble jumping or going up and down stairs, see your veterinarian for a thorough physical examination.

"DON'T take two Aspirin and call me in the morning!"

Cats are much more sensitive to non-steroidal anti-inflammatories, and some are downright deadly (acetominophen or Tylenol). Although they may help us with our aches and pains, they are not okay for cats.

The joy of aging

Older pets can become easily confused, forgetful, and skittish. This isn't always related to normal aging and may require treatment to maintain healthy brain function.

You're how old?

An adult cat ages 4 years for every 1 year that humans age. That means visiting your veterinarian every 3 years is like waiting 12 years for a cat!

Weight a minute

Obesity is a growing problem in today's cats and dogs. As dogs and cats get older, they will often become less active. If you notice your older pet gaining weight, talk to your family veterinarian about a weight management plan.

Remember to brush

Oral care and oral exams are important life-long but should especially be done for senior pets. Gum disease and tooth decay are only two examples of painful dental conditions that can affect pets. A sedated oral exam should be considered for any pet that is reported to have any difficulty chewing, swallowing, drooling or weight loss.

The key to long life

Keeping your aging friend in healthy body condition can increase their longevity and greatly enhance their quality of life in their geriatric years.

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Contact your family veterinarian with any questions about caring for senior pets.