



CANINE SENIOR QUESTIONNAIRE

As our furry family members age, they can develop the same geriatric conditions that humans do. It is important to note any changes in your dog's behavior or physical abilities to help continue a good quality of life. Monitoring your pup and informing your veterinarian of these changes can help them greatly.

Many geriatric disease processes can be managed with medications, supplements or rehab therapy. If a dog is struggling to get up from a lying position, or is starting to have difficulty with stairs, it is often thought that it's just because they are "getting older". But the actual diagnosis on physical exam could be osteoarthritis or neuropathy. Arthritis can cause your pup to sleep more, move slower during walks and decline play time. When your pet is painful, performing everyday tasks can become difficult. But they don't have to live that way. We can help manage their arthritis so they can continue to do the things that you both enjoy.

Returning to your veterinarian for routine wellness exams also keeps you on top of underlying disease. Listening to the heart, palpating the abdomen and obtaining their weight are important factors in assessing the health of your pet. Teeth are examined to monitor tartar build up and gum health. Eyes can be checked for visual issues like cataracts. Hips, back, knees and forelimbs can be checked for any joint pain or neurologic deficits. A veterinarian performing a full physical exam will let us know the quality of your aging pet's life on a day to day basis. If any of these ailments have begun, we can often help them. Performing wellness care for seniors, such as bloodwork, can detect many diseases in their early stage. This early detection makes it easier to manage your pet's condition. It also may prevent invasive treatment that may have been necessary later in the course of the disease.

Our goal is to keep your pup healthy and *happy*. We want their quality of life to be the best it can be as they are getting older. We want your relationship with your pet to be the best it can be during their golden years. By answering the following questionnaire, we can help you help your dog live the best life possible.

Behavioral / Neurologic

- Confusion or disorientation; staring at walls; standing in corners
- Pressing head against walls
- Less interaction with the family
- Changes in sleep pattern/heavy sleeping
- Pacing/wandering at night
- Increased irritability or aggression to other pet housemates or family members
- Circling or repetitive movements
- Barking or howling without reason

Mobility / Heart / Lungs

- Decrease in play; slower during walks
- Shaking of hind limbs when standing
- Difficulty on slippery surfaces
- Struggling to get up after lying down
- Crossing hind legs when standing
- Dragging of paws when walking
- Hesitant with steps; slower moving up and down steps
- Limbs seem stiff; no longer bending knees well when walking
- Lameness; limping
- Licking of joints; on top of paws
- Not wanting to be pet; growling when touched
- Rapid breathing even when resting
- Heavy panting after activity; hard to catch breath
- Coughing more; hacking
- Tires easily with activity

Body functions

- Bad breath or drooling
- Difficulty chewing, becoming messy when eating
- Increased appetite; begging; stealing food
- Increased in thirst; begging for water; drinking out of the toilet
- Decrease in appetite; finicky eater
- Increase in urination; wanting to go out more
- Having fecal or urine accidents in house
- Vomiting / Diarrhea
- Weight loss; muscle loss
- Weight gain
- Noticeable decrease in vision
- Noticeable decrease in hearing

Pet Name: _____