



Geriatrics & Arthritis

Like humans, pets are living longer due to better nutrition and medical advancements. Like us, pets are also experiencing a wider range of health issues brought on by living into old age.

With good nutrition, exercise and veterinary care, many dogs are living well into their teens; cats living to age 20 or older are not uncommon.



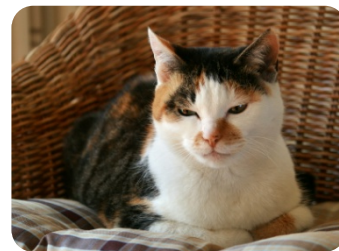
About ACCGV Geriatrics & Arthritis

Our focus on **SENIOR PET WELLNESS** includes doing everything we can to make sure that your dog or cat lives a long, healthy and happy life. This includes **PREVENTIVE CARE** and **EARLY DETECTION** to spot disease and health conditions while they can be successfully treated.

- **Twice annual exams** to spot problems early before they become serious – and potentially costly -- health conditions. **This is equal to humans seeing their physician every 2-3 years.**
- **Annual blood work and urinalysis** to monitor and look for subtle changes in heart, liver and kidney functions.
- **Early detection** of diabetes, cancers, heart disease, dental disease, kidney disease and hyperthyroidism – all **HIGHLY TREATABLE** when caught and treated early.

Facts about your senior pet

- Dogs and cats are **considered senior** at age 7; large breed dogs at age 5-6 and small breed dogs at age 8-9.
- Health concerns for aging pets are similar to those **faced by humans** -- changes in weight (gain or loss), dental problems, arthritic joints, heart problems and others.
- Older, large-breed dogs can develop **internal tumors** with no external signs, which, if left untreated, can kill your pet.
- **Obesity** is a huge concern for many pets, and "ages" animals faster; at the same time, sudden or chronic weight loss is also a serious health concern.
- **Diabetes**, while on the rise in dogs and cats, is highly treatable and does not shorten lifespan if caught and treated early.
- **Arthritis** is NOT a normal sign of aging – it's a highly painful – but treatable – disease that some pets get as early as age 2.
- Dogs and cats can experience **dementia** – or cognitive decline – just like humans.
- **Preventive care, good nutrition, exercise** and a loving family all help pets live longer.



Spotting signs of canine and feline arthritis

Arthritis is NOT just a sign of getting old. **It's a highly painful DISEASE that CAN be treated.** Arthritis can slow pets down at just about any age, but the signs can be subtle. Find out how to tell if your cat or dog has the early signs of arthritis. See our at-home checklist at: <http://animalcarecenter.com/arthritis-check-list.html>

***Pets are living longer
and can be kept
healthy and happy
long into their
“golden” years.***

What you can do at home for senior pets

Areas to watch:	What to do or watch for:
Diet and nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check foods for digestibility, calorie content and quality of ingredients.• Talk to your veterinarian about stage-of-life diets, nutritional supplements and food ingredients that might contribute to diseases in older pets.
Weight management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be mindful of weight GAIN or LOSS in both dogs and cats*
Hydration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Watch for changes in water intake – especially if your cat or dog is drinking more than usual.*
Exercise & activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep pets active with moderate exercise.
Elimination habits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Watch for bloody or runny stools.*• Watch for excessive or bloody urination.*• Watch for difficulty in elimination or straining / crying out in the litter box.*• Watch for <i>changes</i> in frequency or amount of urine & feces. *• Watch for “accidents” or needing to go out in the middle of the night. *
Vocalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take note of an increase in vocalization including whining, crying or atypical vocal sounds.*
Sleep habits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Watch for restlessness, excessive sleep or lethargy.*
Behavioral or cognitive changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pay attention to changes in normal behavior that might include aggression or increased sensitivity, as well as changes in mental abilities such as confusion or lack of coordination.*

***If you spot any of these, see your veterinarian as soon as possible.**