Pride Veterinary Centre
Hospital. Practice. Resort.

ScarsdaleVets

Elderly Dogs

Old or geriatric dogs are at the stage of life at which the aging process is affecting every organ. Some organs wear out faster than others, so it is important that the older dog does receive special care.

1. Make sure that vaccinations are kept up to date.
2. Groom frequently to keep hair and coat from matting.
3. Clip nails since overgrowth is more likely as the dog becomes less active due to age.
4. Keep plenty of fresh water available and monitor consumption.
5. Make sure other pets do not prevent the old dog free access to food and water.
6. Keep indoors most of the time, especially when the weather is cold or damp.
7. Weigh on the same scale and record results at least every month. Any weight change should be reported to your vet.

Please call to arrange a check-up with your vet if you see any of the following:

- Sustained, significant increase in water consumption
- Sustained, significant increase in urination
- Weight loss
- Significant decrease in appetite or failure to eat for more than two consecutive days
- Significant increase in appetite
- Repeated vomiting
- Diarrhoea that lasts more than a couple of days
- Any straining or difficulty in passing faeces or urine
- If the dog suddenly becomes dirty in the house
- Lameness that lasts more than 3 or 4 days, or lameness in more than one leg
- Noticeable decrease in vision, especially if sudden in onset or pupils that do not constrict in bright light
- Masses, ulcerations (open sores), or multiple scabs on the skin especially if they appear to be getting worse
- Foul breath or sudden drooling from the mouth
- Increasing size of the abdomen
- Increasing inactivity or amount of time spent sleeping
- *Memory loss!*
- Hair loss, especially if accompanied by scratching
- Persistent coughing or gagging
- Excessive panting
- Sudden collapse or weakness
- Inability to chew dry food
- Any seizures, convulsions or odd behaviours

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TRUSTED · PROFESSIONAL · CARING

RCVS ACCREDITED PRACTICE
SMALL ANIMAL PRACTICE