

Getting Old, Staying Healthy

The life expectancy of our pets has distinctly increased over the last years due to improved nutrition, care and early detection of disease.



When are our pets considered to be old? When are the first signs of aging to be expected?

Cats and small dogs: from the age of 8-10 years

Large dogs: from the age of 6 years

The larger the dog is, the more quickly aging proceeds.

What happens when one grows old?

The intake and digestion of food becomes more difficult:

- The teeth deteriorate.
- The digestive system works more slowly.
- The liver and kidney function is less adaptable.

General fitness decreases:

- The muscles become weaker.
- The joints wear out.
- Heart performance decreases.

The perception of the senses diminishes:

- Hearing and vision
- The sense of smell
- Memory



Older animals show a higher tendency for tumour development and hormonal illnesses.

How can we help our elderly pets stay healthy?

1. Regular check-ups 1-2 times per year by your veterinarian are recommended. The check-ups should include a thorough clinical examination. Blood and urine analysis as well as radiological diagnostics can be necessary.
2. Nutritional guidance is important in order to register the needs of the older patient and to be able to adjust the feeding habits of your pet accordingly.
3. Check your pet's weight regularly.
4. Provide your pet with regular exercise, adjusted to its capabilities.