



Love that Lasts a Lifetime

A Dog Owner's Guide to Senior Care

“Blessed is the person who has gained the love of an older dog.”
- Sydney Jeanne Seward

At Hyde Park Veterinary Clinic, we understand how much you love your dog and how important it is to provide excellent care as your pet ages.

Many pet owners know their senior dogs experience some of the same symptoms and illnesses as elderly people. Just as with humans, extra planning and attention ensure your dog enjoys its “golden years.”

We've put together this information based on questions we receive most often, but we encourage you to talk with us about any concerns you have about your pet.



Did You Know?

The average city dog lives 3 years longer than a country dog. This is due to:

- leash walks
- limited access to stray animals
- less exposure to the elements.



Confusion, weight loss or gain and difficulty getting up from a reclining position are all signs to watch for in older dogs.

Did You Know?

Many of the same diagnostic tests performed on older people are recommended for senior dogs, such as:

- blood pressure screening
- electrocardiograms
- ultrasound examinations.

Sometimes pet owners dismiss symptoms seen in their older dogs as a typical part of the aging process. In truth, older dogs become prone to certain illnesses, such as diabetes, low thyroid and arthritis. To diagnose these conditions as early as possible, it is prove beneficial to increase your pet's annual exams to twice yearly. We also recommend performing laboratory tests more often, as blood work can indicate underlying disease.

More frequent examinations and lab tests allow us to accurately assess the level of your dog's health. We can then make appropriate recommendations such as a diet change, altering exercise routines or providing medications that alleviate stiffness or arthritis pain.

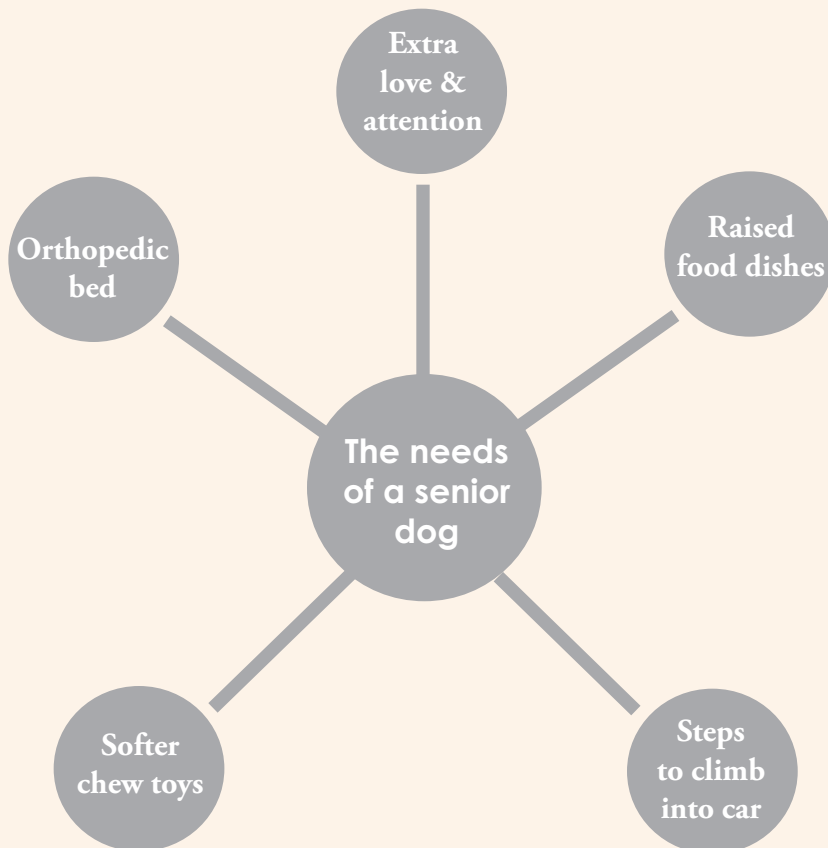


Recommended Testing for Senior Dogs

- **Complete Blood Count (CBC)** - tests for anemia and overall health of the blood cells as well as evaluating the number and type of cells in circulation.
- **Chemistry Panel** - tests many organ systems including:
 - liver
 - kidney
 - pancreas.
- **Thyroid Function** - an important test to determine if your dog has hypothyroidism (too little thyroid hormone), as this disease is common in older dogs.



- **Urinalysis** - this test not only reveals infection but also provides early detection of kidney disease.
- **Blood pressure measurement** - some senior dogs have high blood pressure, which can be treated with medication.



Aging Comparison



1	7
2	14
3	21
4	28
5	35
6	42
7	49
8	56
9	64
10	70
11	77
12	84
13	91
14	98
15	105