



How to Care for an Animal Companion as She Grows Older

After bringing a pup home from EASEL Animal Rescue League, you'll get to enjoy many wonderful years with your new animal companion — but there will come a time when he starts to slow down and require a bit more veterinary care than he did in his younger years.

According to the [American Veterinary Medical Association](#) (AVMA), this typically occurs at around seven years of age — but will vary depending on the specific breed, species, and size of your pet. Some common problems affecting senior pets include diseases of the liver, kidney, and heart — and other conditions such as arthritis and cancer.

While it can be difficult to witness an animal companion growing older, lose his sight and hearing, and develop one or more medical conditions, there are a few things you can do to make your pet's senior years some of the best of his life. For some tips on caring for your aging animal companion, read on.

Relieve Pain Naturally

If your animal companion is dealing with pain and discomfort in his senior years, cannabidiol (CBD) could help to alleviate some of it — especially if he suffers from arthritis. Before using cannabidiol to treat arthritis in pets, however, it's important to consider several factors to ensure you're purchasing the right CBD product for your animal companion. These include [product reviews](#), customer reviews and other factors such as product strength, formula, and ingredients. And if CBD isn't right for your senior pet, other options for natural pain relief may include:

- [Vet-approved supplements](#) and homeopathic remedies such as glucosamine, omega-3s, traumeel, and elk velvet antler.
- [Touch therapy](#), energy work, massage, and acupuncture.
- [Senior-friendly pet products](#) that can help your animal companion to live more comfortably, including toe grips, traction socks, furniture ramps, and supportive harnesses.

If you do need to [give prescription medications](#) or natural supplements to your senior pet, the experts at Best Friends Animal Society offer some tips on how to do it. Typically, the administration method will depend on whether your pet needs his medication in pill, topical, or liquid form.



Safely Spoil Your Senior Pet

As much as you'd love to give your aging pet everything and anything he wants as he lives out his Golden Years, your spoiling could exacerbate his health conditions or do more harm than good. However, it's possible to [safely spoil](#) senior dogs with nutritious treats that benefit the joints and teeth, fun toys that boost cognitive function, and plenty of time for play and exercise. If you have an [aging cat](#) at home, spoil him with comfortable bedding, regular brushings, new games and activities, and a diet that supports your feline's changing needs.



A Final Word

Young animals are certainly adorable, fun, and energetic, but senior pets are just as wonderful. Your beloved animal companion may need more veterinary care as he grows older and begins to display some signs of age-related health conditions, but that doesn't mean he's going to enjoy life any less. With a comfortable home that he loves and an owner that adores him, your pet's senior years will be some of his best ones yet!

If you're a dedicated and compassionate animal lover looking for an opportunity to volunteer, reach out to [EASEL Animal Rescue League](http://www.easelnj.org) at 609.883.0540 to match your skills and interests with animals that need your love and support.

Look for Assistance with Vet Bills

As your animal companion grows older, he'll likely require more trips to the vet — and you may have trouble affording the growing cost of veterinary care. But according to [The Humane Society of the United States](http://www.humanesociety.org) (HSUS), financial assistance is available if you need help paying for veterinary care, pet food, and other necessities for your aging animal companion. As one option, you could arrange a payment plan with your current vet's office — or you could apply for a CareCredit credit card if your veterinary clinic accepts this form of payment. Additionally, many national and local organizations offer assistance to pet owners, including the American Veterinary Medical Foundation, Mosby Fund, and Shakespeare Animal Fund.



Additional Resources (click on links for more info)

- <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/pet-owners/petcare/senior-pets>
- <https://petlifetoday.com/best-cbd-oil-for-dogs-with-arthritis/>
- <https://www.prevention.com/life/a20468281/natural-health-remedies-for-pets/>
- <https://moderndogmagazine.com/articles/how-use-touch-therapy-heal-your-dog/93395>
- <https://www.pawculture.com/lifestyle/home/10-essential-items-for-your-senior-dog/>
- <https://resources.bestfriends.org/article/how-give-dog-pill>
- <https://iheartdogs.com/10-ways-to-spoil-the-living-daylights-out-of-your-senior-dog/>
- <https://www.meowingtons.com/blogs/lolcats/10-tips-to-keep-your-senior-cat-healthy>
- <https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/are-you-having-trouble-affording-your-pet>