

TRIXIE

My Partner
with the
grey Snout
SENIOR

What your
old friend
needs now!



AGING: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Living with an old pet is something special. Not only that the bond to your four-legged friend has become more and more intimate over the years. Our senior pets develop a special charisma that is often defined by a dignified composure and calmness.

You have probably noticed a few changes in your four-legged friend. **A lot of things happen more slowly and the need for periods of rest has increased.** As with humans, there are large differences in fitness with pets. Here you need to pay attention, as many changes initially go unnoticed. Pets are masters in hiding deficits, and it is sometimes quite difficult to identify the difference between aging and illness. Basically there is not a lot of difference between the aging processes of dogs and cats. However, large and heavy breeds age faster than smaller breeds.

The time with your old companion is precious. It is also a new phase of life that often comes with a change in needs. The challenge here is to understand and accept these. **There are many options of adjusting your life so that you and your old friend can continue to enjoy your time together.**

Naturally you want your four-legged friend to stay as healthy as long as possible so that you can spend many years together in a carefree way. Regular check-ups with the vet are important so that illnesses such as e.g. arthrosis and diabetes can be diagnosed timely. Cats in particular often develop renal insufficiency. Thyroid diseases are not unheard of as well. **The important thing is: The sooner a (chronic) disease is diagnosed the better!** Today, there are vets that specialise in many medical areas as e.g. heart, eyes, diabetes.



Claw
Grinder



Soft Brush



FUR AND CLAW CARE

Good care for your old friend becomes particularly important in old age. **Your loving affection is appreciated by your senior pet and incidentally it helps in checking the whole body of your protégé in a relaxed atmosphere.**

Often the fur of old pets changes. It can become drier and lose a part of its protective function. Senior animals are usually more sensitive to cold and wet conditions. Typically, there are problems with moulting. You can support your four-legged friend with a carding groomer here.

Cats in particular spend a lot of time in cleaning their whole body with their tongue. **When their flexibility decreases, a senior cat will need your help.** Particularly the lower back is often difficult to reach for older cats. A soft brush or a grooming glove provide support here. The gentle massage stimulates the blood circulation.

The claws of dogs and cats wear away less when the pet gets older and might need to be shortened (more often). Claw scissors are suitable for this. Much safer is the use of a claw grinder. If you feel unsure how to shorten claws, your vet can show you how to do it correctly.



Fur Care
Gloves



Carding
Groomer

TEETH

Your protégé's teeth need special attention in old age at the latest. Have them checked regularly by a vet or a specialised animal dentist.

Tartar is not only the reason for unpleasant bad breath. It can also lead to serious health problems. **In plaque and tartar, dangerous bacteria can accumulate that attack the gums.** In the worst case they can get into the blood circulation and damage important organs such as heart, liver and kidneys. Therefore, tartar should be removed professionally. Today, many vets offer a gentle short anaesthetic that is suitable for older pets.

Tooth care water and gels, but also chewing items can help to reduce plaque and the resulting tartar. There is a wide range of chewing items. The best thing to do is to try out what your senior can keep long enough and what he tolerates well.



Single-use finger pads



Drinking Fountain Vital Flow





NUTRITION

Appropriate nutrition for each age group does a lot for your pet's quality of life. In pet shops, you can find a large choice of feed types suitable for senior pets. It is best to get specialist advice there. **Feed supplement can increase your senior pet's well-being, e.g. by boosting the immune system or supporting healthy skin and fur.**

It is important for your senior pet to drink enough to relieve the burden on the kidneys. This is especially important for cats as many velvet paws suffer from renal insufficiency. **Many cats find flowing water from drinking fountains interesting.** Maybe you can encourage your cat that way to drink more. In addition, wet feed is more suitable for senior pets than dry feed due to its higher water content.



Easy to digest snack pastes are suitable as reward or snack in between meals. The delicacies from a tube are easy to digest and licking them relaxes your senior pet. Incidentally, there are special snacks that can serve to hide tablets in case your senior pet is an expert at eating around any medication!



EXCESS WEIGHT

Older cats and dogs often get problems with excess weight or even obesity (adiposis). In the worst case, a vicious circle of weight gain and inactivity is the result. **Make sure your old pet is active so that the weight stays normal.** This also helps to prevent a number of diseases that can result from excess weight, e.g. excessive joint damage, diseases of the cardio-vascular system or diabetes (diabetes mellitus).

Slow Feeding products slow down the food intake. Feeding is more exciting for your pet and keeps the pet busy for longer. If your pet gulps down the food, these products can help with hyperacidity, flatulence and cramps. Licking also relaxes cats and dogs. Especially with demented pets that tend to be restless this is a useful side effect and can help to start the day in a gentle way or relax for the night.

Slow Feeding Food Mat



Slow Feeding Ceramic Bowl

Pylon Obstacle Set



Strategy Game Pentagon

INCONTINENCE



Once your senior pet is no longer clean, first of all have a vet check for possible causes. **Possibly, the health problem at the base of this can be treated.** If the incontinence cannot be alleviated, hygiene pads in places where your pet normally lies can at least catch some of the mishaps.

Nappies or diapers for male dogs can also improve hygiene. It is important to change them sufficiently often as your old friend might not like the smell.

If stains from urine or faeces happen, special cleaning agents help to remove stains and odour completely. They also remove the smell of vomit and other pet smells reliably. **In particular those places where your pet lies and that are washed often should be washed with an animal - friendly and odourless detergent.** It is optimal if those places where your pet prefers to rest can be washed at high temperatures.



Diapers
for
Male Dogs

Vital Bed
Pulito

washable
at 90°C



THERMOREGULATION

At a higher age, it becomes more difficult for pets to regulate their body temperature. Maybe you have already noticed that your senior pet gets cold more easily. **A suitable dog coat makes the walks more pleasant.** Inside, older dogs often like wearing a soft pullover or coat as well.

In the summer, heat can be a problem. Of course, there should always be a place in the shade and water for drinking. **In addition to that, cooling mats can help your pet to feel good.** It is best to go for walks early in the morning or in the evening when it has cooled down.

TIP:

Dogs that have problems getting up on slippery floors can get help if you provide them with a non-slip carpet. Non-slip socks are also helpful. The extra grip makes it easier for the dog to get up and walk.



Dog
Socks



BE NORDIC
Hoodie



Cooling
Mat Soft

GENERAL WEAKNESS

With many older pets, the heart gets weaker, which reduces their fitness and they tire more quickly. Even if you walk more slowly and have rest breaks, moving about and going for walks is very important for your senior pet. In addition to that, many older dogs enjoy a good sniff. **Maybe you can shorten your walks and go out more often instead?** This would surely meet your partner's needs!

Even if your senior pet needs more periods of rest, participation in family life is still a must. **When on tour, backpacks, bags, buggies or bicycle trailers are a good way for your pet to rest when their strength fails.**

On longer excursions or on holiday their usual place to lie can help your pet to find rest and deal with the unusual situation. Everything familiar helps to come to terms with the new situation. Therefore, your pet's favourite toys should be taken along.



Bicycle
Trailer for
Dogs

ARTHROSIS IN DOGS

Many of our old darlings suffer from degenerative wear and tear of their inflamed joints – arthrosis - which is painful and reduces mobility. **Heat is the best remedy here. Therefore, it is important to protect your pet from wind and weather when you go outside.** Some dog coats offer extra protection, e.g. with an inner lining that reflects the body heat.

You can help your pet with cosy heat indoors as well. These might be cuddly places to lie or warm pullovers and overalls.

Orthopaedic places to lie with visco-elastic foam adapt exactly to the body shape. This relieves the pressure on sensitive body parts. Your senior pet will find the optimal sleeping position more quickly and finds it easier to relax.

Eating is more pleasant for an older pet from raised bowls or food bars. Ramps have proved beneficial when getting into a car or onto other places where your pet can no longer jump up.

Even if your older pet is less active, healthy exercise is more important than ever. You know your old friend best. Which are your pet's favourite activities? Maybe you can adjust your activities so that your older friend still has fun and benefits.

A great chance to get active are activity games for dogs and cats. **The search for hidden treats is fun and provides mental challenge and increases dexterity.** Simple games such as e.g. sniffing carpets are also well suited for demented or restless animals (see p. 16).

Does your senior pet like swimming? Then a life jacket might be the right thing for you. It provides safety when strength fails. The extra buoyancy relieves the joints. Life jackets have also proved valuable in water therapy.

Push Away Strategy Game



Life Vest for Dogs





TIP:

When older pets sleep more and lie down for longer, the danger of painful pressure sores increases. A good padding helps to prevent this. Once pressure sores have formed, you can reduce the pain for your old pet with a nurturing cream.



**Bendson
Vital Bed**



**Folding
Ramp**



**Explore
Winter Coat**

ARTHROSIS IN CATS

When senior cats can no longer jump well, their usual favourite places can no longer be reached. However, cats love their raised viewing platforms on cat trees, window sill and sofa backs. **You can help your cat with climbing aids.** There are also sturdy senior cat trees that are not too high and that have integrated steps.

Wall elements that are attached lower down or have steps or climbing aids can be real assets for senior cats keeping them flexible at the same time. Pay attention that your cat still has enough feeling for balance left to master the wall climbing course. It might be better to exchange narrow elements with wider ones or reduce the distances with additional elements. Make sure nothing can happen in case of a fall and do not attach the climbing course too high.

When the cat's back is no longer flexible and turning around becomes difficult, the cat litter tray should be a bit bigger. A low entrance or a ramp help with getting in and out.



Primo XXL
Litter Tray





Steps

**Climbing
Steps for Wall
Mounting**



**Oskar
Scratching
Post XXL**

DETERIORATING VISION – BLINDNESS

With our four-legged friends, their vision often decreases slowly in old age as does ours. The reason for this is mostly cataract that can be seen in the eye lenses as they slowly becoming opaque.

The best support you can give your senior pet is not to make any changes to your joint living area. **Everything that is familiar helps your pet to find the way and gives a feeling of security.** Make it as easy for your pet as you can and create surroundings without barriers and without unnecessary obstacles and dangers.

That goes for outside as well. Dogs will continue to enjoy going on those walks that they are used to. **Leading your dog on a leash gives support and is advisable for safety reasons as well.** If your pet likes to follow you or another dog, you can even master new walks.

For cats that roam outside there is a higher risk when their vision decreases. Road traffic and other animals can become an even greater danger. Here you have to decide if you want to reduce unsecured roaming for your cat as far as you can. Maybe an area in the garden or on the patio can be fenced off and made secure? Or you can convince your cat to go on walks together with you in harness and leash? This needs a bit of practice, but then become a good alternative to free roaming.

You do not need to stop playing with your pet, for many blind or visually impaired dogs are just as lively and love to play as their counterparts without problems. **Soft yellow toys that make sounds are optimal.** Yellow is a colour that dogs can see particularly well. In addition to that, such toys appeal to your dog's sense of hearing and are easy to grip and carry.



TIP:

'Mausi's Ball' has become famous because it reintroduced the fun in playing with a ball to many affected animals.



Double-tone Whistle



Plush Toy for Dogs



Natural Rubber Dumbbell with Bell

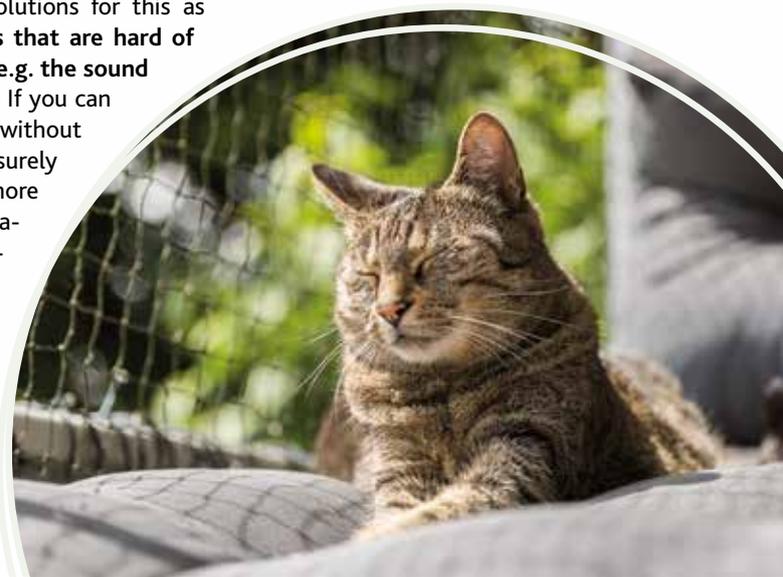
DECREASING HEARING - DEAFNESS

Often the hearing deteriorates in old age. Sometimes you notice this only when you open the fridge door and your pet does not come running. The reality is that the hearing has probably deteriorated slowly over a longer period of time.

If you call out a command and that no longer works, this leads to new challenges. However, there are solutions for this as well. **Sometimes dogs that are hard of hearing can still hear e.g. the sound of a dog whistle well.** If you can no longer go on walks without a leash, your dog will surely be happy if you allow more space to move with a tracking leash or an extension leash.

And what about older cats?

In the same way as for impaired vision, unsecured roaming is not recommended for cats that are hard of hearing or deaf. The danger of being hit by an approaching car increases. A safe lookout with fresh air at the window or on the balcony with a protective net can be a good alternative for your senior cat.



DEMENTIA (COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTION)

When old dogs and cats become demented, quite a lot changes in the lives of humans and their pets. **The disease can affect memory, cognitive functions, motor skills and your pet's personality.** Affected pets often give the impression of being without orientation, they cannot find rest and their sleeping behaviour changes. What your senior pet needs from you now is understanding and patience.

Unfortunately, dementia cannot be cured. In some cases, medication that increases the blood circulation can help to slow down the disease. A visit to the vet is imperative to find out the truth.

There are a number of measures that can ease your living together. Avoid any kind of stress. **Regular daily routines and familiar surroundings give your partner with the grey snout stability and security.**

Check your joint living space for possible obstacles and sources of danger. If your old pet wanders around at night, night lights can give orientation. Maybe it can make sense to close off some rooms or stairs?

Simple activity games are a great way to play together with your darling. **If these games become too complicated, slow feeding products, licking plates and sniffing carpets can be suitable.** As their use is intuitive, your senior pet will not forget them so easily.

Dog Barrier



Lick'n'Snack Mat





Touring
Harness

Many old pets love their rituals, but for demented pets these are all the more important. **In particular sniffing carpets can be a great help.** Sniffing relaxes and keeps the pet occupied and serves to interrupt phases of unrest. Feeding your partner with the grey snout from the sniffing carpet in the morning and in the evening helps your pet to begin and end the day. In addition to that, small tasks help a demented pet to stay mentally as active as possible. It is best to fit in short playful units into your day. Small fetching games are ideal for this.

Often demented pets do not know their physical boundaries. If your senior pet's strength fails when you are out walking, a harness helps to stabilise the pet. **It is also a great idea to take a buggy, trolley or something similar along.** That way your dog can decide when and how much to run or when to rest.



Sniffing
Carpet



Buggy
for Dogs

For senior cats it is important that the cat litter tray is fast and easy to reach. Extra cat litter trays shorten the way.

GERIATRIC VESTIBULAR SYNDROME

The geriatric vestibular syndrome leads to a greatly reduced sense of balance. It manifests itself through dizziness where the pet turns in circles, falls over and sometimes vomits. Other typical symptoms are trembling or eye rolling (nystagmus). To see your pet in this condition is very difficult to bear.

Therefore, it is important to know that these serious symptoms often improve within days and the dogs can get completely well again. During the first phase, most dogs need support when getting up and walking. Here lifting aids or walking aids can be useful.



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SAYING GOODBYE

As difficult as it may be, there comes the time where you have to say goodbye to your beloved pet. **It is best to be prepared for this moment.** There are a number of questions that can be looked into beforehand.

Consult your vet about putting down your pet. Many vets can come to your home when the time has come. When is the right time and which options are there? Do you have someone that can come along and drive you? **When the time comes, every decision you have already made makes things easier.**

Once the necessary preparations have been made, you can go back to doing the most important thing - enjoying your valuable time together!

On Youtube
you can find our
film with lots of
interesting tips for
senior pets!



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