

SENIOR PET HEALTH CARE

Make Senior Easier

TO BE COMPLETED BY/WITH PET OWNER

TRIAGE SHEET

Just like us, your pet’s body and brain change as they get older. Many of these changes are part of the normal ageing process but some could indicate an underlying health condition. Early diagnosis and treatment can slow the progression of some age-related conditions and help keep your pet at their best, whatever their age.

Answering the questions below honestly, will help you and your vet identify the areas where your pet might benefit from a little extra help. For each category, please consider any changes you have noticed about your pet over the last 6-12 months.



YOUR PET’S BEHAVIOUR

As pets get older, they can develop behavioural (cognitive) changes that indicate brain ageing.

Does your pet...	Less often	More often	No change
Interact with your family and other pets			
Daydream (stare at walls, floors or into space)			
Gets anxious about new things/changes			
Seem under the weather			
Have periods of strange, almost manic behaviour			
Vocalise (meow, bark or whine)			



YOUR PET AND THEIR SURROUNDINGS

Getting older can affect how your pet’s brain responds to the information received. Your pet’s eyes and ears might also process sights and sounds differently.

Does your pet...	Yes	No
Bump into objects (especially in unfamiliar places)		
Respond to loud noises		
Respond when you call (or rattle food)		



YOUR PET'S APPEARANCE

Your pet's fur might look and feel different to usual, or their grooming habits might change.

Does your pet...	Yes	No
Have dull/unkempt looking fur		
Have patches of thinning/bald fur		
Groom themselves normally		
Smell unpleasant		
Have lumps on, or under, their skin		



YOUR PET'S BODY SHAPE

Your pet's body shape might alter with age if their metabolism (how the body makes and stores energy) has changed.

Does your pet...	Yes	No
Appear to have lost weight		
Appear to have gained weight		
Appear to have changed shape in any other way		



EATING AND DRINKING

There might be an underlying condition that changes your pet's eating and drinking habits.

Does your pet...	More than normal	Less than normal	No change
Eat			
Drink			

Does your pet...	Yes	No
Drop food from their mouth when eating		
Paw at their mouth during or after a meal		

Have you changed your pet's diet recently		
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SLEEP AND REST

Changes to your pet's sleep routine can affect their well-being and might disturb the whole family.

Does your pet...	Yes	No
Sleep more during the day		
Sleep less during the day		
Become restless (pace around or struggle to settle) at night		
Breathe quicker or cough when lying down		



TOILET HABITS

Even small changes to when, where and how often your pet 'toilets' can indicate underlying brain ageing or other age-related health conditions.

Does your pet...	Less often	More often	No change
Pass stools			
Pass urine			

Does your pet...	Yes	No
Have indoor accidents without noticing		
Seek out unusual places to toilet indoors		
Seem uncomfortable while toileting		
Have loose stools during or after a stressful event (E.g. a long journey or stay in boarding kennels)		

Your pet's stools in detail...

Does your pet...	Yes	No
Pass very firm stools		
If so how often? <i>(Please Circle)</i>	Daily	Weekly
Have diarrhoea (loose stools)		
If so how often <i>(Please Circle)</i>	Daily	Weekly
Pass unusual coloured stools		
Please state the typical colour of your pet's stools:		



ACTIVITY AND EXERCISE

Changes to how your pet moves and exercises can often give important clues as to how they feel.

Is your pet...	Yes	No
Still able to jump onto furniture		
Still able to climb stairs		
Reluctant to go for walks or play		
Stiff when getting up after rest		
Stiff or lame (limps) during exercise or play		
Does your pet...		
Get out of breath when exercising		
Cough when exercising		

Please write any other changes you have noticed, or concerns you have about your senior pet...