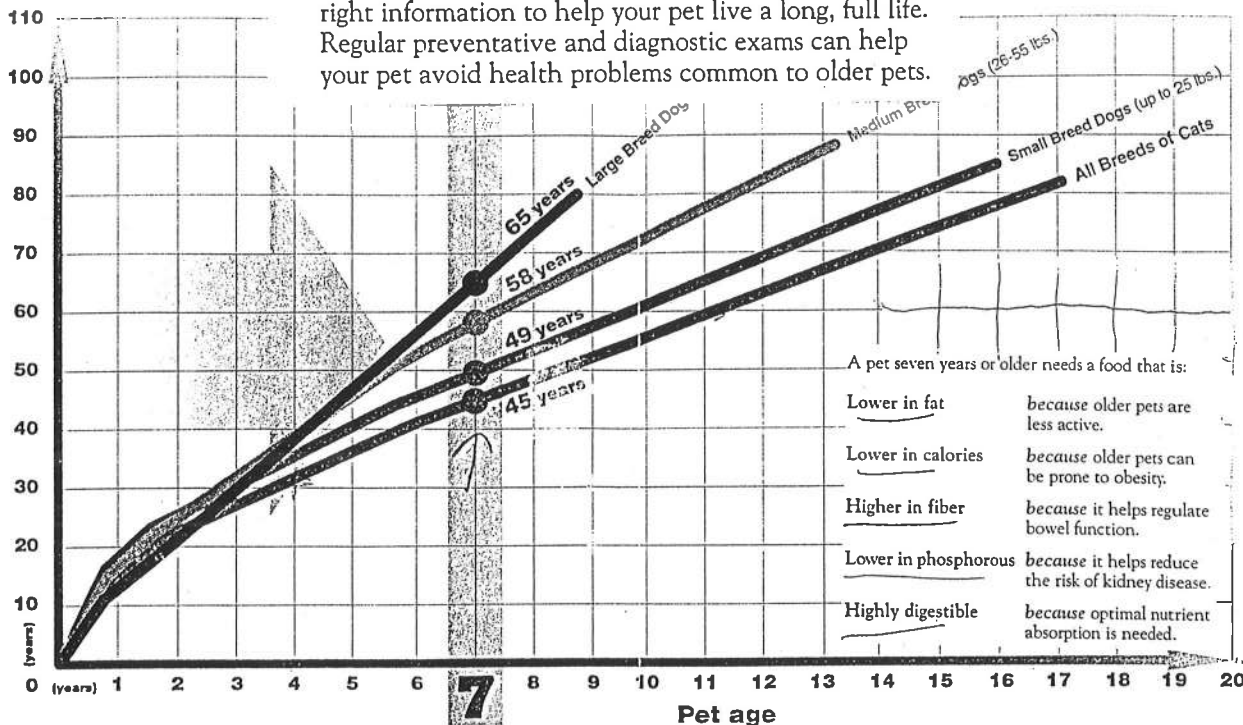


Age 7 means something different to your pet.

Equivalent human age



With extensive knowledge of your pet's health, habits and future needs, your veterinarian can give you the right information to help your pet live a long, full life. Regular preventative and diagnostic exams can help your pet avoid health problems common to older pets.

A pet seven years or older needs a food that is:

- Lower in fat because older pets are less active.
- Lower in calories because older pets can be prone to obesity.
- Higher in fiber because it helps regulate bowel function.
- Lower in phosphorus because it helps reduce the risk of kidney disease.
- Highly digestible because optimal nutrient absorption is needed.

Around the age of 7, dogs and cats begin to enter the "senior" phase of life, which will last for approximately half of their expected lifespan. The chart above will help you calculate the approximate human age of your pet.

Your pet may not look or even act different but his or her dietary and physical needs have changed enough so that his current feeding and exercise routine may no longer be ideal. The decisions you make now regarding exercise and nutrition will have a big impact on your older pet.

What should you do as a pet owner? You can reduce the risk of health problems and help your older pet live a long, full life by providing regular veterinary care and nutrition that's specifically designed for your older dog or cat.

Because age 7 is such an important year for pets, some veterinarians offer a special screening examination designed to check for diseases and conditions that often afflict older pets, such as:

- Kidney Disease
- Heart Disease
- Obesity
- Urinary Tract Disease
- Diabetes Mellitus
- Skin Conditions

This 7-Year Health Check-Up may also include an assessment of your pet's history to see if any risk patterns exist. Exercise and nutritional recommendations may be included as well.

While some signs of disease may be difficult for pet owners to detect, others are easily noticed by pet owners in the pet's normal environment. To help prevent disease, it's helpful to recognize the warning signs of those conditions that are common in older pets.

Here is a simple guide.

Kidney Disease

Symptoms associated with kidney disease may include:

- Loss of appetite
- Frequent or rare urination
- Vomiting
- Increased thirst
- Poor hair coat
- Sore mouth

Heart Disease

Some signs of advanced heart disease include:

- Shortness of breath
- Reduced exercise tolerance
- Difficulty breathing
- Coughing
- Noticeable weight gain or loss

Obesity

Dogs and cats above their ideal weight are more likely to face:

- Joint problems
- Breathing difficulties
- Heart disorders
- Diabetes Mellitus

Urinary Tract Disease

A pet with urinary problems may show some or all of the following signs:

- Straining to urinate
- Blood in urine
- Vomiting
- Frequent urination (often in unusual places)
- Weakness
- Loss of appetite