

*Full of advice  
on caring for  
your pet*

*Your guide to*  
**Senior Dogs**



*Jollyes, only the  
best for you and your pets*



[www.jollyes.co.uk](http://www.jollyes.co.uk)

# Are you ready?



Just like humans your dogs will grow older and their needs and requirements will change. As important members of the family you will want to look after and provide your beloved dog with as much comfort and nourishment possible for their health.

Believe it or not but your dog will be considered a senior at the age of 7. Even though they may still be as active as they were a few years ago their needs and requirements will differ.

*Dogs can be trained at any age*

For all major health concerns please seek the professional advice of your local vet. Meanwhile follow some of the following factors in the quest to looking after your senior dog as well as you can.

## **Diet**

**Senior dog food?** A highly balanced nutritional diet is a vital part of your dog's health. Providing them with a high quality senior dog food can make them feel better and reduce the chances of illnesses in the future by offering them all the nutrients they need. Your senior dog can live a healthy and happy life with a specially formulated senior diet that provides them with a highly digestible and nutritional food. Your local Jollyes will be happy to advise you on a specially formulated senior food, which will work best for your dog.

**Supplements** - Supplements can really benefit your senior dog by providing them with the sufficient amounts of vitamins and



minerals they require on a daily basis. Supplements can help to prevent or slow down arthritis and provide a natural supplement to promote healthy joints and cartilage.

Your local Jollyes will be happy to advise you on appropriate supplements.

*A proper,  
well-balanced diet  
is essential*

## **Health**

As your dog ages they may be affected by the following factors:

**Sight and hearing** - It is important to be aware that your dog's sight and hearing may be affected by old age. Always ensure that your dog can see and hear you when approaching, as to not scare them. A senior dog with loss of sight and hearing can become very startled if they have not managed to hear or see you approaching.

**Slowing down** - As your dog ages you may notice that they slow down, they may not be as active and energetic as they once were. Look out for changes such as if they are having trouble standing up, using the stairs and if there is any hesitation or stiffness.

**Arthritis** - Is common in senior dogs, particularly in larger breeds. It is likely to occur in joints such as the legs, neck and back. There are a variety of medications available to ease your dogs discomfort, contact your local vet for further information.

As your dog becomes older there are a small variety of things you can do which can help make their life more comfortable and easier:

**Orthopaedic pet bed** - Just like ageing humans, dogs will become less comfortable with sore joints and achy muscles. You may wish to supply an orthopaedic pet bed, which will offer a much greater support to your dog's joints and muscles.



**Water & food bowls** - Raising your dogs water and food bowls is just another way to help your ageing dog by reducing neck strain and making it easier for them to eat.



**Weather** - It is important to provide all dogs with a nice warm place to lie and sleep in the winter, especially senior dogs. Make sure that they are away from any draughts. In the summer ensure that a shaded area and fresh water is available at all times.

**Exercise** - Your dog will still need to receive daily exercise and keep moving as they become older. Obviously the distance they can walk will need to be reduced however they will still thoroughly enjoy daily walks. It is important to consider the weather conditions when taking your older dog out for a walk, as they cannot tolerate extreme weather conditions like when they were younger.



***When should I see my vet?*** You should consult your vet as soon as you are worried or concerned about your dog however there are certain things to look out for as signs you should see your vet:

- Arthritis pain
- Poor breathing
- Bleeding gums
- Sudden blindness or loss of hearing
- Sudden change in weight or loss of appetite
- Lack or change in drinking
- Cognitive dysfunction also know as age related dementia
- Hair loss and irritated skin

As a loyal companion and an important part of the family, your dog will require the best care and attention from you in their senior years. It is important to make their life as easy and comfortable as possible by following a few of our care guidelines.

***They still  
need regular and  
daily exercise***



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# Shopping Checklist

We recommend the following items for your new senior dog.

## Senior Dog Checklist

- Bed/basket
- Food and water bowls
- Specific senior dog food
- Grooming brush, comb and nail clippers
- Worm and flea treatments
- Toys and chews
- Collar/harness and lead
- Identification tag/disc
- A car crate, car divider or car harness

Please be aware that our senior guide is a basic guide to providing a happy life for your senior dog. It is advisable to seek veterinary advice should you have any worries or concerns in the future.

### *For further information contact:*

Jollyes Petfood Superstores  
1 Lea Road, Waltham Abbey, Essex EN9 1AS

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