



THE KENNEL CLUB
Making a difference for dogs

Information Guide

Do you know how to
look after your dog in its
senior years?



www.thekennelclub.org.uk

Just like you, your dog's needs will change as it gets older and this guide has been compiled to give you some guidance on how to adapt to your dog's changing lifestyle. Stages of aging may differ according to the breed. The average lifespan of a dog is in the region of 10 years, although this can be less in some larger breeds. It is advised that you ask the breeder of your dog or the relevant breed club for some guidance on the potential lifespan of your chosen breed.



THE KENNEL CLUB

1-5 Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London W1J 8AB
Telephone 0844 4633 980 Email info@thekennelclub.org.uk

www.thekennelclub.org.uk

Join the conversation:

[twitter@kclovesdogs](https://twitter.com/kclovesdogs) facebook.com/kclovesdogs

Do you know how to look after your dog in its senior years?

Health

- Ensure you give your dog more regular health checks and keep a watchful eye for any problems, e.g. tummy upsets. Problems it may have shrugged off as a youngster can be more serious for older dogs unless treated early.
- Groom your dog regularly (especially dogs which have been neutered) as old coats may get thicker and more difficult to manage unless carefully looked after.
- Think about the expense of lifelong care and ensure your pet is insured to cover any health problems that may occur later in life. The



THE KENNEL CLUB HEALTHCARE PLAN

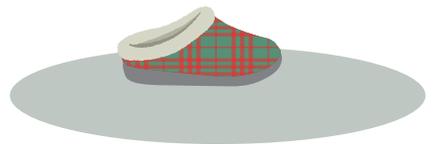
Kennel Club Healthcare

Plan now offers owners and breeders a choice of benefits and levels of cover alongside robust, lifelong veterinary fees protection (terms and conditions apply).



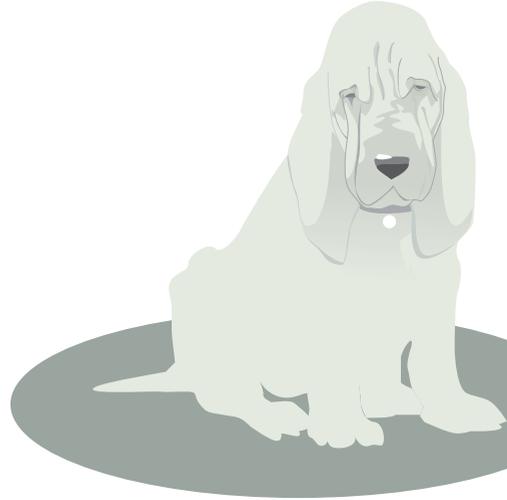
For further information please
call **0800 369 90 90** or visit
www.kcinsurance.co.uk

- Recognise when it is time to say goodbye to your dog and listen to advice your vet gives you. It is very difficult to see things clearly when you are close to the situation.



Exercise

- Older dogs will not need as much exercise as before, but you should ensure that they still get enough. They stay fitter and 'younger' if they are kept suitably exercised.
- Ensure that the dog is dried when returned from a wet walk.
- Ensure the dog is able to relieve itself more frequently - bladder control often reduces with age. Older dogs should not be left alone for long periods for this reason.
- Older dogs may need a suitable jacket to go outside in, as some coats get thinner and more porous with age and are therefore less able to withstand rain and cold.



Feeding

- Feed older dogs smaller, more frequent meals.
 - It is important to keep the dogs weight down. Dogs kept at the correct weight will live longer, healthier lives compared to overweight dogs. Overfeeding and resulting obesity do not do the dog any favours.
 - Feed your dog a specific diet for elderly dogs. This does not necessarily mean a low protein diet - this is an often-quoted misapprehension and is not backed up by research, which actually points to a higher protein intake for older dogs.
- Make sure you use a food type to suit old teeth if your dog has lost its teeth with age.
- Your dog may need more palatable food as it gets older. It may also benefit from having tastier things added to its meals to keep it eating.



THE KENNEL CLUB

Making a difference for dogs

The Kennel Club works to protect and promote the health and welfare of all dogs in the UK. We want happy, healthy dogs living long lives with responsible owners. All profits from the organisation go straight into funding the many programmes run in the best interest of dogs and dog owners.

Anyone can register their dog with the Kennel Club. By registering you will demonstrate your commitment to your dog's well-being and to the health and welfare of all dogs. You can register online today at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/dogregistration.

What ever your dog's needs, the Kennel Club is here to help and support you. Find out more by contacting us on 0844 4633 980, or visit our website at www.thekennelclub.org.uk and sign up to regular news and features about the wonderful world of dogs.

Additional guides on a wide range of subjects are also available to download from our website at www.doginformation.org.uk:

- Asthma and your dog
- Breeding from your bitch
- Choosing and bringing home the right dog for you
- DNA profiling and parentage analysis services
- Do you know dog law?
- Do you know what to do if you lose your dog or find a stray?
- Find a rescue dog
- Health screening and the Kennel Club
- How to breed dogs using artificial insemination
- How to get involved in fun activities and competitions with your dog
- How to get started with dog training
- How to register your dog with the Kennel Club
- Kennel Club endorsements
- Moving house with your dog
- Road travel with your dog
- So you are thinking of working with dogs?
- Thinking of showing your dog in the UK?
- Thinking of using your dog as a stud?
- Travelling abroad with your dog