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## Aging Dogs

Here are 10 questions to ask yourself about your older dog. If you answer a strong “Yes” to any of them, then you should probably take your dog in to your veterinarian for an exam.

1. Does your dog drink more water than it used to?
2. Have you noticed any marked weight loss?
3. Has it had any loss of mobility or visible stiffness?
4. Have you felt any lumps or growths?
5. Has your dog's appetite changed?
6. Does your dog greet you any differently?
7. Is your dog vomiting regularly?
8. Does your dog have problems climbing steps?
9. Have your dog's sleep habit changed?
10. Has your dog's breath gotten worse over time?

Every dog ages differently. And every dog will age, even though we may want them to live forever. It is our responsibility as a pet owner to be observant and keep our dog's quality of life high. We may have to take shorter walks and feed a little less, but there is a lot that can be done to keep your older pet happy and comfortable. We do want to find any problems as early as possible so we have the best chance of controlling them.

For more detailed information about your older dog, please see my article on Senior Pet Care.