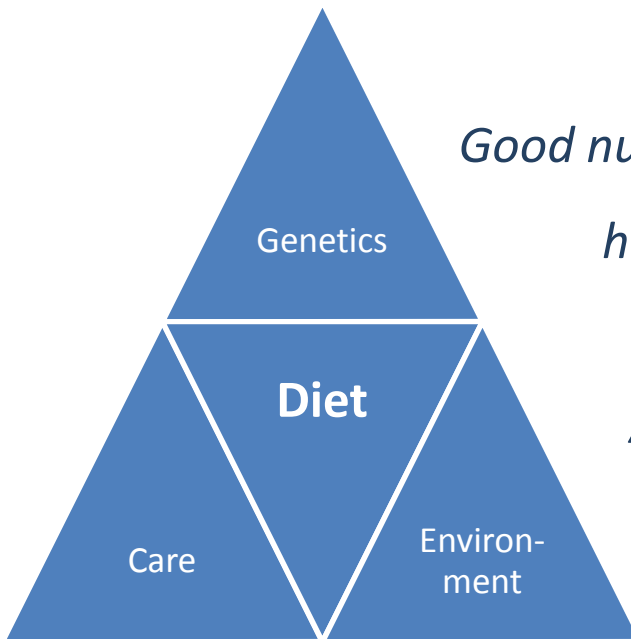


Senior Dog Care

Share the dream of aging beautifully with your dog!



Good nutrition is the basis for good health and longer life.

As dogs age, results of lifelong choices become more apparent.

Dogs age an average of 7 years for every human year



Smaller dogs less...



Larger dogs more...

Smaller breeds mature faster, but age more slowly after reaching maturity. A small dog isn't considered 'senior' until after 10 years old, while largest breeds may be as young as 6 years.

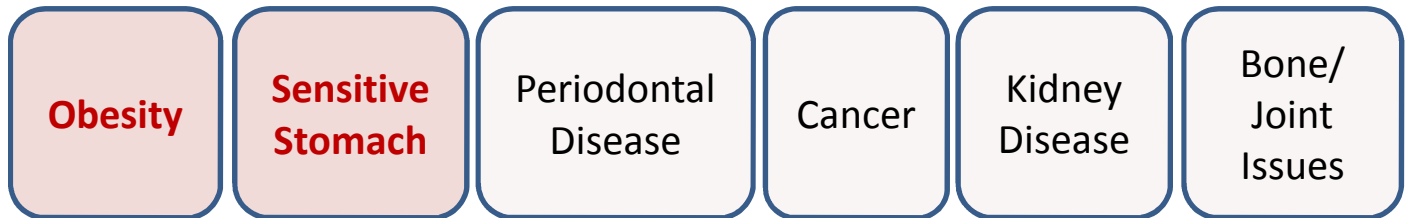
Our pets are completely dependent on our food and care choices, and control their future health, energy, and well being



Improving Pet Health through Nutrition & Education
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Senior Dog Care

Common Issues



As dogs age, their systems become less active and burn fewer calories. Continuing to feed the same amount of food as metabolisms are slowing and consuming fewer calories contributes to weight gain. Nutrition and weight management are the most important choices you can make affecting your pet's health and longevity.

Myth: Dogs need to consume the same volume of food in order to feel full.

Truth: Feeding less of a more digestible and nutritionally complete food is healthier for older dogs than 'lite' or bulk foods that need to be processed and eliminated.

Myth: Senior dogs have different nutritional needs than all other life stages.

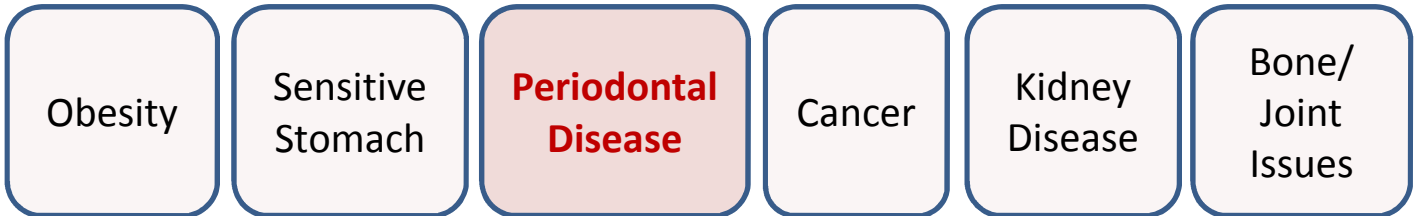
Truth: There are only two nutrition profiles: 1) Growth/Lactation; and 2) Adult/Maintenance. Growing skeletal systems need extra nutrients. Excesses in mature system can accumulate to toxic levels over time.

Myth: Senior dogs need supplements in their diets.

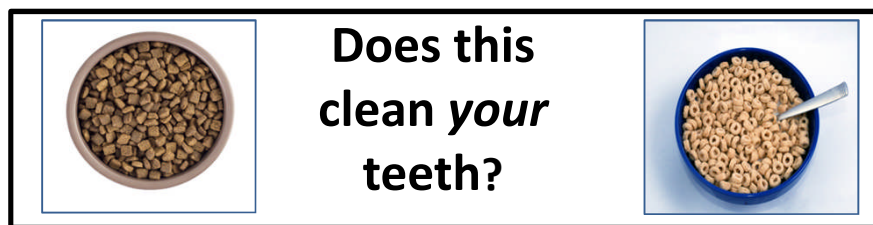
Truth: Aging systems may be slower to digest and absorb nutrients. While certain supplements may be recommended to address specific health issues, adding supplements to an otherwise complete and balanced diet can lead to over-supplementing of certain nutrients that can contribute to health issues.

Senior Dog Care

Common Issues



Dogs are frequently diagnosed with some stage of periodontal disease after age three. Allowing bacteria to thrive in the dog's mouth will contribute to bacterial issues throughout the dog's body.



Myth: Dry crunchy food helps to clean the dog's teeth.

Truth: Digestion begins in the mouth. Dry food is more likely to remain wedged in teeth and gums for longer periods of time, feeding plaque and tartar, and contributing to bad breath. More digestible food spends less time on teeth and gums.

Myth: Chewing dry food helps to build neck and jaw muscles.

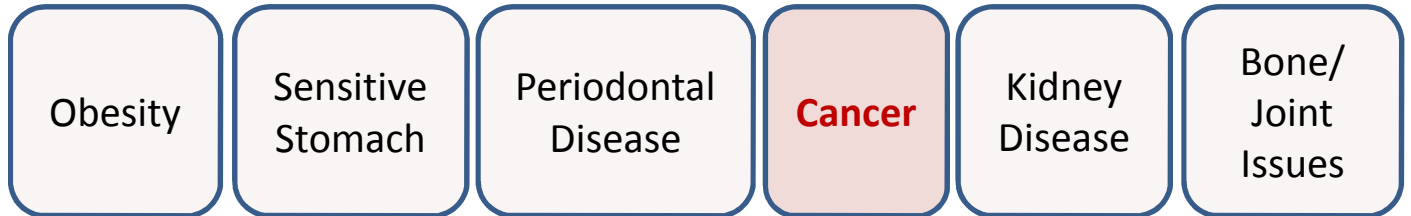
Truth: While chewing is good exercise for neck and jaw muscles, the time spent chewing dry food has no proven advantage in overall muscle tone.

Myth: Moist foods contribute to plaque and tartar buildup.

Truth: While bacteria does grow in moisture, saliva begins the digestive process. Low digestible, moist foods are worst offenders, highly digestible foods that are more quickly out of the mouth are best.

Senior Dog Care

Common Issues



Cancer is the leading cause of death in older dogs. While there are no foods specifically proven to cause cancer, there are many ingredients commonly found in commercial pet foods that are known carcinogens or that have been associated with increased occurrences of certain cancers. Over time, the dog's system becomes less tolerant of unnatural substances.

Myth: Carbs cause cancer.

Truth: Carbs do not *cause* cancer, but certain cancers do feed on carbs. Commercial diets with carbohydrate levels greater than 40% should be avoided as the excess carbs can fuel cancers and contribute to diabetes and a variety of other health issues.

Myth: Natural preservatives are safe for pets.

Truth: Any product that claims to contain meat and can sit on the shelf without spoiling must be preserved. Preservatives are unnatural substances in the dog's system and are treated as allergens or toxins.

Myth: Processed ingredients are healthy for dogs as long as vitamin and mineral content is complete.

Truth: Processed ingredients are more difficult for dogs to digest. Processing unnatural ingredients adds stress to the dog's system, weakening their immune system and defenses against many health issues including cancer.

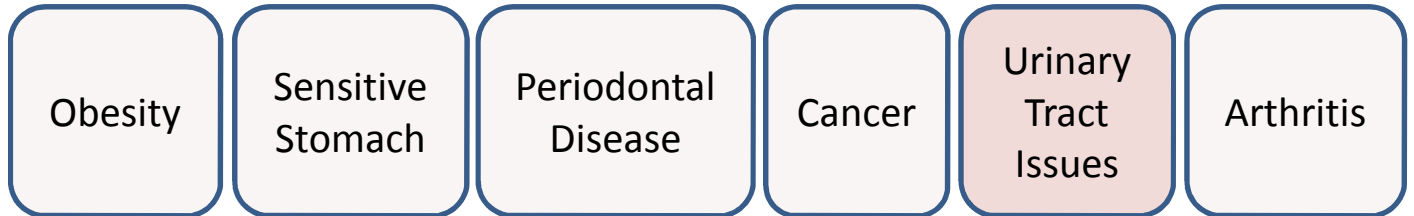


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Senior Dog Care

Common Issues



Older dogs frequently develop urinary tract issues that can be attributed to weakening muscle tone lessens and onset of certain medical conditions. Excessive drinking not only exacerbates the problem but may be an indication of health issues such as diabetes, etc.

Symptoms: There are many symptoms that may result from a variety of digestive and urinary tract issues:

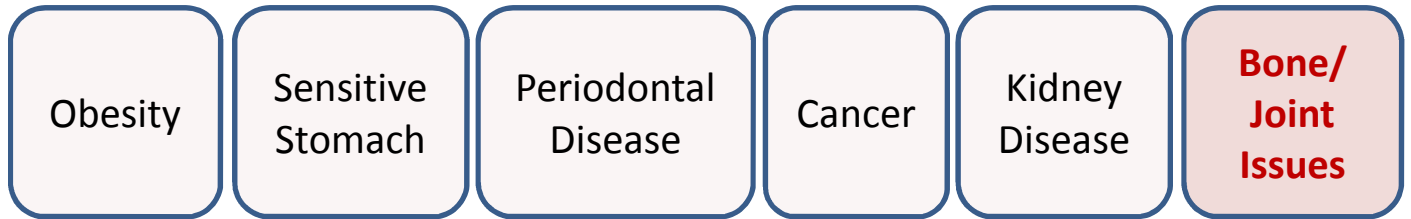
- * changes in drinking habits
- * changes in elimination patterns
- * changes in appetite
- * dramatic weight loss/gain or any sudden change in behavior

Truths: The best cure is prevention! Once infections or other medical issues have been eliminated, the best treatment is natural, healthy foods that are easy for the dog's system to digest and absorb nutrients while maintaining a healthy balance of fluids and fiber.

- * limit excess minerals and unnatural substances
- * moist foods and constant supply of fresh filtered water
- * balanced fiber to avoid diarrhea or constipation
- * more natural foods that are easier on the digestive tract

Senior Dog Care

Common Issues



Diet, weight management and exercise are the most important factors influencing the health of older dogs' bones and joints. While genetics play a role, and there is no prevention or cure for a variety of health issues, excess weight and lack of appropriate exercise are proven contributors to bone and joint health issues.

Myth: Glucosamine and Chondroitin must be supplemented in the dog's diet.

Truth: Both are naturally synthesized in the healthy dog's system. Supplemental forms are only utilized by the dog's system only when it is unable to produce it's own, the rest is eliminated as waste.

Myth: Glucosamine and Chondroitin supplements have been proven to improve bone and joint health.

Truth: Glucosamine contributes to the body's production of glycosaminoglycan's, a substance that helps in the building of cartilage. Chondroitin's role is actually to combat enzymes in the joints which over time can inhibit the growth of healthy cartilage. Many studies under way but there are no conclusive results published for benefit in dog's skeletal system to date.

Myth: Glucosamine and Chondroitin supplements have no known side effects.

Truth: The higher the dose, the greater the risk of side effects, including nausea, intestinal issues, and in rare cases affects sugar levels in diabetic dogs.



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