

GERIATRIC INFORMATION

**PUPPY LOVE SHELTIES**

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Just as a person ages, your pet will slow down as it grows older. The biological clock moves much faster for pets than it does for people. Instead of taking 18 years to reach physical maturity as people do, Shelties mature when they are slightly more than one year old.

**YOUR SHELTIES AGE IN HUMAN YEARS**

SHELTIE	HUMAN
1 year	15 years
2 years	23 years
3 years	27 years
4 years	31 years
5 years	35 years
6 years	39 years
8 years	47 years
10 years	56 years
12 years	65 years
14 years	75 years
16 years	86 years
18 years	98 years

As you can see, a Shelties age does not work out to a 7 to 1 ratio as most people believe!

***Aging Pets*** are like aging people in many ways. They may walk stiffly and have problems going up and down stairs. You may notice gray hair developing, a duller, drier coat and hazy eyes. They can have many of the same physical problems that people do - failing eyesight and hearing, arthritis, heart, kidney, liver and dental problems.

***Obesity can reduce life expectancy by 30 to 50%.*** A diet especially formulated for the needs of your aging pet is very important. Slowing metabolism and lower activity levels make older pets more prone to obesity. Extra pounds place a burden on heart, lungs, kidneys, joints and muscles.

***Your vet*** will tell you when it is time to make a change in your Shelties diet.