

Exercise: Asking the vet what to expect

This short exercise is to help you know what to ask your vet team about what to expect and what you need to know. You can add or change the questions to suit your circumstances and leave a space to write down what your vet team tell you:

Question	What the vet says
What should I expect from now on?	
What signs will tell me that my pet is getting weaker or more unwell?	
What signs will tell me that my pet is in pain or suffering in any way?	
What will I be able to do to relieve their pain or suffering?	
Should I watch out for any particular side effects from the treatment or medication?	
What will tell me that my pet needs urgent veterinary care?	
How do I get in contact with the vet team out-of-hours?	
Is there anything I can do to make my pet more comfortable? (For example, special food or warmed-up meals, different bedding, keeping them warmer or cooler, or moving them to a quieter or more sheltered place.)	

If you are caring for an elderly pet, you may notice symptoms which you assume are due to old age. However, it is important not to dismiss these because, even if they are related to ageing, they most likely will indicate a medical condition which requires diagnosis and treatment by your vet.

This exercise is to help you understand what you should expect, to learn what you can do to help keep your pet comfortable and to identify when urgent vet care is needed and how to contact the vet team in an emergency.