



Chastain Veterinary Medical Group Pet Health Fact Sheet

How Old Is Old? Typical Lifespan of Common Companion Animals

Birds

The life span of birds is highly variable. Among parrots, about which perhaps the most is known, larger birds tend to live longer than smaller birds. The general range seems to be about 4 - 15 years for most companion birds in captivity.

According to *Avian Medicine: Principles and Application* (Ritchie, Harrison, Harrison, Wingers, 1994), Finches typically live to be about 4-5 years old. Budgies; 6 years (maximum recorded = 18 years). Cockatiels have a typical life span of about 5 years, although the maximum recorded life span is 32 years. Amazon Parrots have a typical life span of about 15 years, although the maximum recorded life span is about 80 years.

Domestic Cat - 10 - 15 years; rarely up to early 20's

The life span of the domestic cat is highly variable.; it seems to vary with breed, life style, diet, and level of preventive health care provided. Several cats have been reported to live into their early 30's.

Chinchilla - 8- 17 years

Several sources report chinchillas living into their early 20's, however, this seems to be extremely uncommon.

Domestic Dog - 10 - 17 years

The life span of the domestic dogs highly variable.; it seems to vary with breed, body size, life style, diet, and level of preventive health care provided. Smaller breeds generally live longer than larger breeds.

Gerbil - 3 - 4 years

Green Iguana - 13 - 29 years

The life span of the green iguana is highly variable. and seems to depend heavily on diet, environment, and housing.

Guinea Pig - 7-8 years

Some sources assert a maximum life span record of 12 years.

Domestic Ferret - 5 - 7 years.

Domestic ferrets in the US seem to have shorter life spans than those in Europe and elsewhere. Ferrets in the UK are said to live up to 10 - 12 years in some cases.

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Hamster - 3 - 4 years

Mouse - 1 - 2 years

Rat - 2 - 3.5 years

Snake

Snakes probably have a pretty short life span in the wild. Captive snakes probably live longer, for obvious reasons. Among captive snakes, life spans of 10-20 years are not uncommon. According to some sources, the oldest recorded snake was a common boa called 'Popeye' which died in 1977 aged 40 years, 3 months and 14 days at Philadelphia zoo, Pennsylvania, USA.

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