

# Understanding Animal Life Span

## Unit 3, Lesson 2



# Life Span

*I. Live span* is the period of life for an organism. It is the length of time between birth and death.

A. Based on the average amount of time an organism lives

1. Humans = 75 years in U.S.
2. Cattle = 12-15 years



# Living Condition

**II. *Living condition:*** is the ability of an organism to carry out life processes, needed for protoplasm to function.

A. 7 Processes needed to remain alive:

1. Getting and using food
2. Movement
3. Circulation
4. Respiration
5. Growth and repair
6. Secretion
7. Sensation

B. Some have 2 more processes

1. Reproduction
2. Lactation



# The 5 Stages of Life

- III. All organisms have a definite sequence of stages of life
- A. ***Stages of Life:*** developmental periods with common characteristics that represent various conditions of the organism.
  - B. These stages are recognized in most animal's lives.



# Stage 1: Beginning

- a. The start of an organism's life.
- b. With mammals, begins with conception or birth, depending on calculation.
- c. Age begins with day of birth.
- d. Living organism starts forming at conception.



# Stage 2: Growth

- a. The time following the beginning
- b. Organism is rapidly increasing in size and developing skills.



# Stage 3: Maturity

- a. The state when organism is fully developed.
- b. Carries out functions of adults
- c. No longer increases much in size
- d. Have reached reproductive potential



# Stage 4: Decline

- a. The stage of life that follows maturity
- b. Organism has lived past maturity and begins to lose the ability to maintain itself
- c. Cells are no longer repaired and replaced
- d. Associated with aging





# Stage 5: Death

- a. Protoplasm in the cells of the organism cease to function.
- b. Chemical activity in the cells stops
- c. Organism is no longer alive.



# C. An example: The Horse

1. Stage 1: Conception
2. Stage 2: During the first 2-3 years of life
3. Stage 3: 10-12 years following growth
4. Stage 4: Horse starts losing teeth, bone problems, deterioration
5. Stage 5: Death follows when horse stops breathing

