

# Easy Backyard Fixes for Senior Dog Safety

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When the weather turns warm, dogs love to spend time outdoors with their favorite people. And senior dogs are no exception. But there are a few additions and changes to decks and yards that will enhance their creature comforts and more fully enjoy their days outside.

Grip Strips on steps from a deck into a yard or garden will ensure elderly dogs don't slip when going up or down. And this works for people too! There are also special grips that can be fitted to their toenails to aid their mobility. The [Solvit Carelift](#) can provide additional help to assist your dog in getting up and down backyard steps as well as provide a lift to getting him back on his feet when he has been lying down for a while.

A waterproof camping cot is a low maintenance option for your dog to have a comfortable place to lie outside. Being a few inches off the ground means that they are raised off hot or cold surfaces, depending on the weather. There are also orthopedic beds that provide extra cushion up on a deck or patio where moisture isn't a factor.

Position any bed you have so that your pet can be guaranteed some shade. In the absence of a tree, stake a small umbrella to provide respite from the sun's direct rays.

Elderly pets, just like people can suffer from dehydration quickly, so it's important to ensure there is a drinking bowl outdoors. There are special outdoor pet fountains. But a nice alternative is an attractive garden fountain, positioned at the right level for your pooch to drink. Ensure it's always clean and free of algae.

Be sure that plants along walkways are pet-friendly in case your dog likes to nosh greenery and also ensure your selection of small shrubs doesn't have thorns.

Elderly dogs will appreciate a special dog potty placed on a deck so that they don't have to walk too far to do their business. If your yard is large enough create an accessible grassed potty area, try placing a plastic fire hydrant to designate the spot. Fake turf works well as it can be hosed down.

And always lock tools away so that an elderly dog with failing eyesight doesn't inadvertently step on something. Similarly, use non-toxic products to eradicate slugs and insects to avoid a dog mistaking poison pellets for kibble.

There is nothing like a day well spent lounging outside with your dog, so make sure it is safe and enjoyable for your pup as well - no matter his age.