

Eight Ways to Help Your Senior Dog Around the Home

Monday, May 2, 2016



It's hard to believe, but our sweet pups are considered senior citizens from the age of seven years and geriatric from 11 years onwards. And, just like humans, age slows them down, compromises their mobility and causes age-related sight loss and deafness. However, by making small changes around the home you can do a lot to improve their physical comfort and help them maintain their independence.

A Place to Rest Their Head

- Start by ensuring your pet's bed is not near a drafty window or door. Just like their human counterparts, elderly pets feel the cold.

- Consider upgrading your dog's bed to a design with memory foam or gel padding, to improve his comfort level. Also look for designs with bolsters for an elderly dog to lean up against.
- If your pet is hard of hearing, place the bed in such a position that she will see you coming and not catch a fright. Similarly, ringing a bell will alert her to your presence if her eyesight is failing.

A Way Up and In

- One of the biggest physical changes in senior pets is the loss of the ability to jump up on to favorite napping places such as the couch or your bed. Investing in [pet steps or a carpeted ramp](#) will instantly solve this problem. Initially, an elderly dog may need some encouragement to use stairs or a ramp. Treats are a positive incentive. Once you have successfully trained her to ascend, repeat the process in the other direction to teach her how to descend. Having steps or a ramp will also mean your dog will get some exercise using them.
- Similarly, a ramp is an excellent accessory for a dog to get in and out of a vehicle. The [Deluxe Tri-Scope™ Pet Ramp](#) is an ultra-compact solution that's lightweight and strong. Ramps can be set up to access a passenger door as well as the cargo area of an SUV.

Getting Out and About

- Elderly pets often have difficulty getting up from a sleeping position. An accessory such as a [Carelift™ Harness](#) will offer much needed assistance to get them upright and possibly even help aid their walking abilities. While the CareLift™ is a full harness, lifting the whole body completely from under the abdomen and the hips simultaneously, it can also be used to offer only front or rear support.
- Dogs really enjoy going for walks and a lack of mobility can impede

upon this daily pleasure. A pet stroller can solve this problem as your dog can continue enjoying slow walks around the neighborhood and, when she gets tired, you can put her in her stroller and give her a ride home.

Dinner is Served

- Raised food and water bowls are an excellent option for elderly pets to avoid the discomfort of having to bend down to the floor to eat or drink. There is an excellent selection available in various heights. The correct height is determined by your pet's sitting position. This way they can either sit or stand to eat without putting stressing on elderly joints and muscles.

As our pets age, we want to ensure their comfort while helping them maintain their routines and the activities they love. By making simple changes to the products you use, their lives can become much easier.

Written by Sandy Robins, one of the country's leading multi-media pet lifestyle experts. Sandy documents the wonderful relationship that we have with our pets, highlighting trends and innovative ideas as they happen.