



Helping Senior Dogs Adjust to Vision Loss



@bodiespanky



Helping Senior Dogs Adjust to Vision Loss

Veterinary consultation and care is important for diagnosis, treatment plan, and prognosis for senior dogs that are becoming or are blind. There are many conditions that are progressive and even painful, but many are potentially treatable. Local veterinarians and veterinary ophthalmologists will diagnose the cause of blindness and recommend appropriate treatment options

Once a diagnosis and treatment plan are in place, pet parents need to set their blind dogs up for success. There are many factors that influence how older dogs adjust to losing their sight. These include whether or not vision loss is acute (sudden) or has been slowly progressive over time. Most dogs will adjust when they have time to gradually get used to losing their vision. Sometimes pet parents don't even notice how blind their dogs have become because dogs map out their area and adjust so well. But when vision loss happens quickly or acutely, dogs commonly become disoriented and anxious. Senior dogs that also have hearing loss or dementia may have an even more difficult time adjusting to vision loss. General demeanor and personality also impact the adjustment.

In general, there are a few things pet parents can do for their blind senior dogs to make them more comfortable as they adapt to new challenges.

Tips for Helping Senior Dogs Adjust to Vision Loss

- Keep a consistent daily routine for meals, meds, potty breaks, walks, and bedtime.
- Gate newly blind dogs into a smaller area like the kitchen to start with. Once they're comfortable in that area, let them explore more areas in the house.
- Use floor mats to help them identify key spots- food/water bowls, bed, door out.
- If they can hear, talk to them for comfort and to let them know what's happening (going out to pee, going for a ride in the car, having a meal or a treat...)
- If they are deaf as well, teach tap/touch signals to communicate with them. Teach younger dogs tap and hand signals before they lose their vision and hearing.



Tips for Helping Senior Dogs Adjust to Vision Loss

- Try a Muffin's Halo to keep blind dogs from hurting themselves when they bump into walls and furniture. Halos give older blind dogs confidence as they start to move around.
- Use gates and keep doors closed to keep blind dogs from falling down stairs.
- Harness and leash outdoors to keep them safe. Carry small dogs or use a stroller.



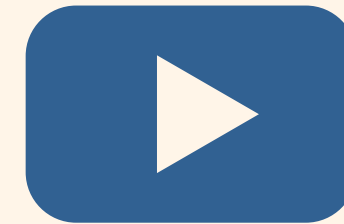
Noah is wearing a Muffin's Halo

More Senior Pet and Blind Dog Info and Support



Support

Support groups found [HERE](#)



Check our Disabled Pets
[YouTube Channel](#) for
instructional videos

www.disabledpets.org

