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Top ten signs of senior dog behavior and health problems

If any of these problems arise, contact your veterinarian for an exam. There are diets, supplements, and medications to help your dog stay a super senior.

10. **Your dog does not greet you at the door.** When arthritis is brewing it hurts to get up. Or if Cognitive Dysfunction is rising, they get a little foggy about who is there.
9. **Acting timid, anxious, or repeated compulsive behaviors.** Brain aging due to chronic body inflammation, or Cognitive dysfunction will increase digging, licking, pacing, whining or tail chasing.
8. **Your dog drags behind on walks or turns to go home.** Your dog is not lazy, they are having a difficult time moving. Arthritis, nerve disease, or kidney inflammation are common causes.
7. **Your dog keeps getting up and moving around** – Early Cognitive Dysfunction syndrome, organ aging, and low-level chronic pain affect the ability to rest, resulting in mixed up sleep cycles.
6. **Grouchy old dogs.** Your dog turns away, stares or growls when petted, or people approach. Chronic pain, organ disease, blindness, and body pain increase irritability.
5. **House soiling.** Dogs may find it difficult to "assume the position," dilute urine is produced in early kidney disease or diabetes. Brain aging and Cognitive dysfunction affects house training. Take your dog out more frequently, and have check ups regularly including urine, blood, and stool checks to stay ahead of serious problems.
4. **Less playful.** An older pet still loves to play, but it may hurt now. Teeth troubles, arthritis, and muscle function loss may be the problem – get a checkup! Use food puzzles for feeding to help "wake up" the brain.
3. **Dogs stop chewing on chew toys.** Dogs cope with sore teeth by eating on the least painful side of their mouth. Often, they avoid their chew bones due to pain. Dental therapy can be staged for the senior dog with anti-inflammatory medication, safe anesthesia and follow up care.
2. **Housemate grumpiness.** It is tough to tolerate a younger dog or cat romping about or bumping into you if your back, hips, or neck hurt. Blind, deaf older dogs are anxious about a housemate. Get a checkup and discuss ways to modify your home so there is housemate harmony.
1. **Ain't doing right (ADR).** It is hard to put your finger on it; your pet is not themselves. Low level pain is usually the culprit. Many problems do not have specific signs until disease is advanced. Blood tests, x rays, and urine tests catch problems long before they show up with advanced signs. Take some video of how your pet is acting differently and bring that in when you come for your exam.