

Behavior changes in your senior pet

Have you noticed any behavior changes in your older pet recently? They could be signs of a medical or behavior issue or, possibly, dementia. To help narrow the cause, please check all that apply.

Disorientation—awareness—spatial orientation

- ☐ My pet gets stuck or has difficulty getting around objects or walks into doors or walls.
- ☐ My pet stares blankly at walls, the floor or into space.
- ☐ My pet drops food and has a problem finding it.
- ☐ My pet goes to the hinge or wrong side of door.
- ☐ My pet gets lost or confused inside the house or yard.
- ☐ My pet has not been recognizing familiar people or familiar pets.

Altered social interactions

- ☐ My pet has decreased interest in petting, affection or time spent with family members.
- ☐ My pet is showing increased attention seeking or overattachment to family members.
- ☐ My pet is less social (avoids or is irritable or aggressive) with people or other animals.
- ☐ My pet is less playful with family members or other pets.

Sleep—wake cycles

- ☐ My pet is experiencing instances of waking or being restless at night.
- ☐ My pet is sleeping noticeably more during the day.

Housetraining, learning and memory

- ☐ My pet has been soiling indoors: ☐ Urine ☐ stools
- ☐ My pet has shown a decrease in or loss of signaling to go out.
- ☐ My pet is showing a decreased response to its name or learned commands, tricks or work.
- ☐ My pet is less able or slower to learn new tasks or tricks—less able to focus.

Anxiety or response to stimuli

- ☐ My pet is more fearful, anxious or unsettled.
- ☐ My pet is showing increased anxiety when separated from family members (separation distress).
- ☐ My pet is showing increased reactivity, startle or fear of sights or sounds.
- ☐ My pet is showing increased fear of new places, locations or surfaces.
- ☐ My pet is increasingly vocal during the daytime.

Activity

- ☐ My pet is showing increased aimless or wandering activity or repetitive behaviors (circling, licking).
- ☐ My pet has decreased interesting exploring or playing with toys.
- ☐ My pet has decreased interest in walks, exercise or play with family members or other pets.