

## **7 Signs Your Dog Is About to Reach The End Of His Life**

As pet owners, we must all go through this tough time, at least once in our life. However, the news doesn't have to come to us as a surprise. There are some key symptoms and behavior that will clearly tell us that our dog's time has come to an end.

Some of these symptoms would indicate that they are severely ill and considering their age, it may even mean that they are at the last stage of their life.

This is one of the most painful topics to talk about, but we need to understand that this is life, and death is something we are all going to end up experiencing at some point, whether we like it or not.

So, it is up to us to whether to accept it and learn how to deal with it, or not accept it but then feel completely damaged when it happens. I vote for the first one...

Losing a dog is no different than losing a family member because they share with us our homes and daily routines for years while providing us with so much love and safety. Therefore, it is necessary to understand what's coming next to soften the blow and learn how to say goodbye on better terms.

Expert vets treat a lot of senior dogs, which means they deal with pet parents constantly through the emotional process of euthanasia. When it is time for a dog to leave, the signs would not always be obvious, but there are a few that are the most common.

Be strong, and hope for your dog to always feel less pain and more relief during any process throughout his life.

### **1 WEIGHT LOSS AND DECREASED APPETITE**

Eventually, the body of your dog would start to fail, which means he will eventually lose the desire to eat. His appetite will gradually start decreasing and he will also not be expending the same physical energy as he used to, especially that his caloric needs will decline.

Your dog's body will start prioritizing staying functional instead of processing the food and that's what will lead to a drastic weight loss. It will happen gradually over the course of months or just weeks. But in some cases, it could happen all at once when the health of your dog will shift completely.

### **2 EXTREME LETHARGY**

You probably have already noticed that your dog is sleeping a lot more since he became a senior. But if your dog is barely moving, as well as poor hygiene, then he has become extremely lethargic and it is time to start accepting what's coming up next.

The body of your dog will try to conserve resources, and probably even avoid any external stimulation. Plus, many activities will lead to pain, so sleeping constantly is the only relief from what your furry best friend is experiencing. Help him by not annoying him during his sleep and avoid anything that could cause him pain.

### **3 BECOMING UNSOCIABLE**

Dogs are known to be extremely sociable, except a few. If you are used to seeing your social dog welcoming others and playing with different pets, and now he is withdrawn, then maybe something is wrong. If your dog is not as old and he doesn't suffer from a health issue (not that you are aware of!), then it is time to call the vet to check the reason behind this behavior. However, if your dog is a senior and already sick, then he would start detaching himself from his "pack" as soon as his health starts declining. What you need to do is understand the space he needs and be careful when approaching him for your own safety.

## **4** ORAL HEALTH ISSUES

The majority of dogs would usually develop dental disease and there is a degree to each one, but in dying dogs, the issues will become more severe.

You will notice that his breath has become particularly bad (you will not be able to stand it), especially if he is dehydrated. The gums inside his mouth will start getting lighter and lighter because the circulation would start to wane. These oral health issues will also have a hand in his desire to eat. Never neglect his mouth and try to always take care of it in order to decrease the amount of hurt he could be experiencing.

## **5** BALANCING PROBLEMS

No matter how old your dog is, if you noticed that his range of motion is changing, then you need to be concerned and take him to the vet as soon as possible because diseases like arthritis could have something to do with it. However, when the balancing problems start happening to a senior dog, then he might be moving to the last days of his life. You would notice that he is becoming less sure on his feet than before or there is a lack of depth perception. He will be avoiding many unnecessary activities, like walking to the water bowl or even climbing the front porch steps.

## **6** POOR SKIN

Once the eating and drinking habits start changing, then the skin of your pooch will start changing, too. He will become more dehydrated, which will negatively affect his skin making it a lot flakier and drier. You will notice that his soft fur has become a little rough to touch, and he would constantly start licking himself. You can try to soothe it by using products that are animal-proof and not harmful to help him feel less itching and a lot comfortable. Don't let this condition prevent you from cuddling and hugging him whenever you have the chance to.

## **7** UNEXPLAINED VOMITING

Sometimes, dogs would vomit, which is not really a big issue. But when the vomiting becomes frequent, unexplained, and accompanied by symptoms that could signal your dog's digestive system is not working properly. When your dog starts aging, the first things to decline are his digestive and urinary systems. So make sure to keep an eye on him whenever he starts vomiting. Once you notice that it has become a bit abnormal, then it is time to call the vet.

It is understandable to feel a little pain and sad reading this, especially if you are aware that your dog has already started to have some of these symptoms. Remember that it is fine, it is your job now to make him feel better and to ease up the last steps of his journey.