

TIPS FOR A BLIND DOG

Tips and Suggestions:

- Your dog's sense of smell and hearing is much greater than ours and they will adapt to use these.
- If you have other pets at home you can attach a small bell (from cat collars) to their collar, so that your blind dog can easily determine where they are.
- You can also get different pitched bells to put in your pocket (or tie to your shoelace) so your blind dog can hear where you are in the house and out on walks
- By keeping your home and garden layout the same helps your pet to know where they are and need to go in the house
- Leave a TV or radio playing softly, the sound is soothing, and may help prevent excess barking and anxiety.
- If you have a smaller dog, avoid picking him/her up to "help" them get to food or other areas. They need to learn on their own, and actually become very confused when picked up and set down.
- Look at your home surroundings especially your dog's eye level to find anything that might be dangerous.
- Start teaching your dog new "help words" (your choice of words) like "Stop" - "Step up" - "Step down" "Right" - "Left" etc.
- Hearing your voice is very soothing, so talk to you blind dog often.
- Remember to speak to your dog when you are approaching to touch (especially while sleeping) to prevent startling him/her.
- Some dogs do become "depressed" at first when they lose vision (this is normal) but you can help by trying to keep up their routine as normal as possible.
- Using a harness is preferable than a collar, because you will have more control, and puts less stress on to the neck & eyes
- If your dog bumps his nose/head often you might consider making your own "hoop harness" or "plastic tie collar", or you can order a custom hoop harness online
- For eye protection when outdoors Doggles or an Eye Shield can protect the eyes . Start them wearing for short periods with treats to get used to them.
- You can purchase "I'm blind" or "blind dog" collars, harnesses, bandanas and leads to let other people know when you are out.
- If your dog is extremely anxious at first, there are some natural products that can be used to help calm him/her.
- Try to have something familiar to the dog like a toy, blanket, bed, etc. For comfort when going to a strange new place.
- If your dog loved to play ball try "scented" tennis balls, you can buy or scent your own tennis balls with vanilla or citrus
- You can buy balls and toys with squeakers or treats in so they can still play