

SET UP A SAFER OBSERVATION NIGHT

Senior Dog Night Observation Checklist

Capture a clear overnight pattern for the next veterinary conversation.

Write down what you see in plain language. Avoid assuming the cause before a veterinarian has assessed the pattern.

Dog and routine

Dog name, age, and weight

Usual bedtime and wake time

Current medicines and timing

Known conditions or recent changes

Environment check

☐ Clear walking route and non-slip footing

☐ Water is easy to reach

☐ Night light is available

☐ Toileting route is accessible

☐ Camera or notes are ready if useful

Contact a veterinarian urgently

Seek urgent care for collapse, severe breathing difficulty, uncontrolled bleeding, repeated seizures, repeated vomiting with weakness, inability to urinate, or severe unrelenting distress.

OVERNIGHT TIMELINE

Senior Dog Night Observation Checklist

Capture a clear overnight pattern for the next veterinary conversation.

One detailed night can be more useful than a broad label such as restless.

Record each event

Time	What I observed	Duration / response

Details to include

☐ Pacing, panting, vocalizing, staring, or getting stuck

☐ Difficulty standing, lying down, or using stairs

☐ Water, food, urination, stool, or accidents

☐ What happened before the event

☐ What helped, did not help, or made it worse

Questions for the veterinarian

Which causes should be ruled out first?

Could pain, medication timing, vision, hearing, or toileting needs contribute?

What changes require urgent contact before the next appointment?