

CARING FOR THE BLIND PET

Blind dogs and cats can be very happy pets. Here are a few bits of advice that will make the transition easier:

1. Avoid changing your pet's environment, such as moving furniture.
2. Encourage your pet to use his other senses to compensate for vision loss.
 - a. Provide toys that are noisy or have a recognizable odor.
 - b. Get a companion pet that your blind pet can follow around using hearing and smell.
3. If your pet is blind due to cataracts, it is wise to observe his/her eyes daily for changes that may indicate glaucoma or uveitis, which are painful diseases. These changes include redness (i.e. a bloodshot eye), increased size of the eye, pawing or rubbing at the eyes, increased tearing, corneal cloudiness, and change in position of the cataract.
4. Encourage exercise, whether in a fenced yard or on a leash.
5. Teach your pet the location of the food and water bowls and keep their location constant.
6. Some behavior changes (aggression, depression, fear, etc.) accompany sudden blindness. Avoid stressing or startling your pet. Inform family members, especially children, of the new condition.