



Home-Proofing for a Blind Pet

Small changes that let a pet without sight live a full, happy life

PETSLIKEMINE
VISION & EYE HEALTH

PET NAME	SIGHT LOSS (GRADUAL / SUDDEN)	STARTED
_____	_____	_____

Pets, dogs especially, cope astonishingly well without sight, leaning on smell, hearing and memory. Most of the work is ours: keeping the world predictable and safe. A pet who has lost sight gradually often manages so well that visitors cannot tell.

KEEP THE MAP THE SAME

- Furniture, beds, food and water bowls stay exactly where they are
- Tidy away clutter, bags and shoes they could trip on
- Do not rearrange rooms; if you must, walk them round the new layout
- Pad sharp corners at their head height while they learn the space

MAKE THE DANGERS SAFE

- Block stairs with a gate, top and bottom, until they are confident
- Supervise near roads and water; keep to a lead in new or open places
- Fence or cover ponds, pools and balcony gaps
- A tag and microchip note that your pet is blind, in case they stray

HELP THEM FEEL SECURE

- Speak before you touch, so you never startle them awake or from behind
- Keep a routine; talk to them as you move about so they can place you
- Use scent and texture cues: a mat by their bed, a different rug by the door
- Tell visitors and children to announce themselves and not to grab

Written and reviewed by Dr Alastair Greenway MRCVS and Claire Greenway BVM&S MRCVS. This sheet explains and records. It does not diagnose or prescribe. Always follow your own vet's instructions.

How to use. Keep the layout fixed, the hazards blocked, and announce yourself before you touch. Give it a few weeks; most pets rebuild their confidence remarkably fast.

A PREDICTABLE HOME IS A SAFE HOME