Behavior changes in your senior pet

Have you noticed any behavior changes in your older pet recently? They could be signs of a medical or behavior issue or, possibly, dementia. To help narrow the cause, please check all that apply.

Disorientation—awareness—spatial orientation
- My pet gets stuck or has difficulty getting around objects or walks into doors or walls.
- My pet stares blankly at walls, the floor or into space.
- My pet drops food and has a problem finding it.
- My pet goes to the hinge or wrong side of door.
- My pet gets lost or confused inside the house or yard.
- My pet has not been recognizing familiar people or familiar pets.

Altered social interactions
- My pet has decreased interest in petting, affection or time spent with family members.
- My pet is showing increased attention seeking or overattachment to family members.
- My pet is less social (avoids or is irritable or aggressive) with people or other animals.
- My pet is less playful with family members or other pets.

Sleep–wake cycles
- My pet is experiencing instances of waking or being restless at night.
- My pet is sleeping noticeably more during the day.

Housetraining, learning and memory
- My pet has been soiling indoors: □ Urine □ stools
- My pet has shown a decrease in or loss of signaling to go out.
- My pet is showing a decreased response to its name or learned commands, tricks or work.
- My pet is less able or slower to learn new tasks or tricks—less able to focus.

Anxiety or response to stimuli
- My pet is more fearful, anxious or unsettled.
- My pet is showing increased anxiety when separated from family members (separation distress).
- My pet is showing increased reactivity, startle or fear of sights or sounds.
- My pet is showing increased fear of new places, locations or surfaces.
- My pet is increasingly vocal during the daytime.

Activity
- My pet is showing increased aimless or wandering activity or repetitive behaviors (circling, licking).
- My pet has decreased interesting exploring or playing with toys.
- My pet has decreased interest in walks, exercise or play with family members or other pets.