

5 Signs Your Senior Dog Is Starting to Slip — Before the Fall

Nobody notices a dog *starting* to slip. They notice the fall — usually at night, usually on the hardwood, usually after weeks of small things that looked like “just getting old.” Here are the five small things.

1

Back legs splay or “swim” when getting up from the floor.

What it looks like: the front comes up, the back doesn’t follow; one hind leg slides out to the side. Hardwood and tile most of all.

2

You hear nails scrabbling at night.

What it looks like: the trip to the water bowl at 2 a.m. — a scratch, a pause, a scratch — and you’re awake before you know why.

3

He picks the rug and avoids the bare floor.

What it looks like: a longer route around the kitchen; stopping at the edge of the tile; waiting for you to come first.

4

The sit-down is sudden, not chosen.

What it looks like: standing still, then a tremble, then down — like the legs decided without him.

5

Your vet has mentioned hips, joints, or “weak back legs” — and told you to do something about the slippery floor.

What it looks like: you nodded. You drove home. The floor is still the floor.

Count the ones you nodded at. One could be anything. **Two or more? Look at the floor — floor problems have fixes.**

WHAT TO DO TONIGHT

☐ Lay a rug on the path he walks most

— bed → water bowl → door.

☐ Check nails.

Long nails lift the pad off the floor.

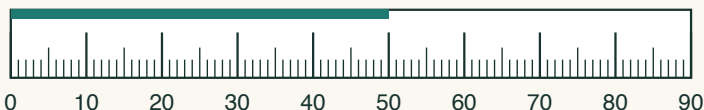
☐ Measure the front paw, standing.

Width across the pad, on the ruler below. Write it here: _____ mm. *Weight tells you nothing about a paw; this number is the only one you’ll need.*

☐ Watch one get-up from the bare floor

and keep the count from above. Do it again in a week.

Paw ruler, 0–90 mm. Print at 100% (“Actual size”). Check: the bar from 0 to 50 should measure 50 mm on a real ruler. Stand the paw with the pad’s left edge on 0.



Not medical advice. Two or more signs? Talk to your vet about your dog’s joints — and bring this page.

Signs are drawn from what senior-dog owners describe in public product reviews, not from a clinical study.

Padkind is in development. The measuring guide is on our website under “How to measure.”