

MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Bulldog Club of America



SENIOR DOG CARE

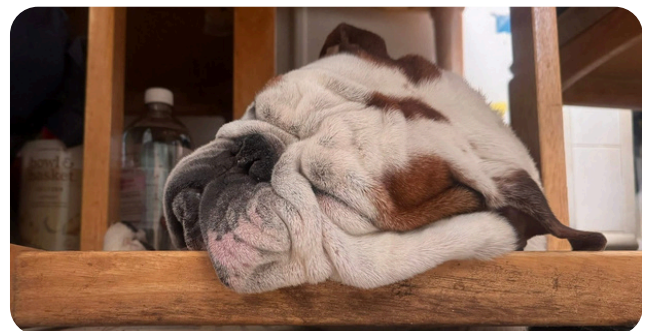


DR. ALLAN FRANK, D.V.M.

Declining mobility is a challenging issue for senior canines, signifying underlying osteoarthritis, muscle loss, neurological conditions, and/or concurrent systemic disease. The first step in mobility management is defining and assessing functional decline. Elderly pets may be prone to mobility and functional limitations due to the cumulative effects of age-related disease, disability, and physiologic vulnerability. **Quality-of-life assessment** is central to understanding mobility loss, as functional ability influences physical comfort, emotional well-being, and daily engagement. Declines in mobility tend to precipitate decline in quality of life and vice versa. Evaluating a pet's ability to navigate their environment, rest comfortably, and maintain socialization provides essential context for designing an effective mobility plan.

One of the most important ways to support mobility is through proper **nutrition**. Keeping your dog at a healthy weight can make a huge difference in how well they move and how long they stay active. Extra weight puts stress on joints, while maintaining muscle helps support strength and stability. As dogs age, preserving muscle becomes even more important for keeping their independence. When it comes to **joint supplements**, the choices can feel overwhelming. A simple tip is to look for products with National Animal Supplement Council quality seal, which indicates the product meets certain safety and quality standards. **Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation** can also play a big role in helping dogs stay mobile. Treatments such as underwater treadmill, laser, shock, magnetic therapies all help improve strength and muscle mass. **Environmental Modifications** (even small changes) at home can make a big difference, too. Making sure your dog has good traction- like using non-slip rugs on hard floors or keeping the fur around their paw pads trimmed- can help prevent slips and falls and boost their confidence while moving around. **Pain management** is another key piece of the puzzle. Many older dogs suffer from chronic pain, especially from arthritis. Medications like anti-inflammatory drugs are often the first line of treatment and can greatly improve comfort. In some cases additional pain relief may be needed as the condition progresses, and regular check-ups are important to ensure these medications remain safe.

In the end, helping our dogs with mobility issues isn't about one single solution - it's about combining the right approaches. With teamwork between pet owners, veterinarians, and specialists, it's possible to create a personalized plan that keeps dogs comfortable, active, and enjoying life for as long as possible.



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LINKS TO EVENTS

Whether you attend events as a participant or a sideline cheerleader, it's a great way to get involved with local breeders and owners. Click below to find an event near you!

[Conformation](#) - Bulldog Club of America

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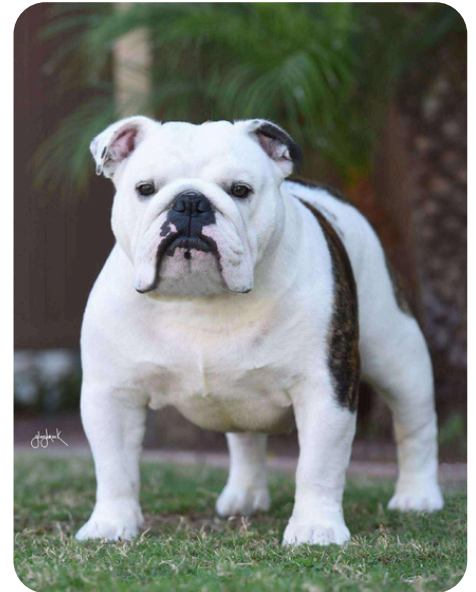
Agility - [Lab Tested Online](#)

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Dock Diving - [North America Diving Dogs](#)

National Association of Canine Scent Work ([NACSW](#))



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