

Give Your Older or Ailing Pet a Lift

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

Get your
dog going to
**increase
exercise**



Certain dogs may have trouble getting up and exercising. For instance, if your dog has a temporary injury, or a chronic problem with movement of his legs, including dog arthritis, hip dysplasia, or muscle degeneration, he will need your assistance to move about.

For big dogs, more exercise is key

For breeds over 50 lbs, giant breeds over 100 lbs, or overweight dogs, a physical lifting device may be a lifesaver. When it's easier to get your dog to his feet, it gives the dog more exercise opportunities, which helps increase circulation and keeps the joints moving. You benefit because it saves your back.

Help up

Helping any dog get up after a nap or a long lie-down may be all it takes to get him going. For a lot of dogs, like for us, when we have a little trouble getting up, a lifting aid is a boon to help weaker muscles boost a bulky body. Once the body is lifted, it's often easier to keep moving.

A simple device

A physical lifting device doesn't have to be complicated. A lift may mean a [lifting harness](#), like the Solvit CareLift™, which can help lift front or back, or the basic [Bottoms Up™](#), which lifts the back only. Both are padded in the right areas, and help you help your dog.

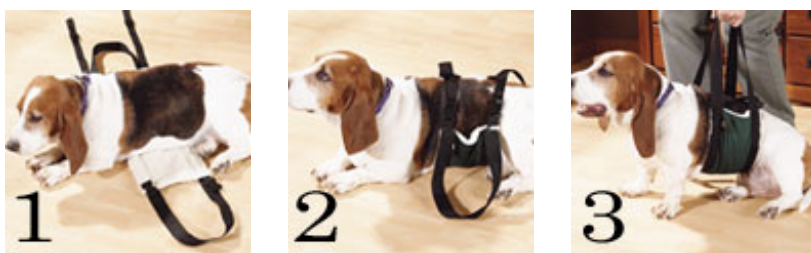
Our recommendation

For overall lifting, to help your pet walk up and down stairs, walk outside to use the

bathroom, or board a vehicle, we recommend our veterinarian-designed [ComfortLift Carrier](#). This carrier has a simple design, is easy to use, and goes right into the washer should it become soiled.

How to use the ComfortLift Carrier:

1. Place the lambswool padded part of the sling under your dog.
2. Adjust the two harness straps to fit snugly around your pet's torso and connect the snap clasps.
3. Grab the support handles, give your pet a verbal command to "stand," and then coax him gently to a standing position. Be firm, but gentle.



Any harness you use can help you help your dog walk with you, allowing your dog to set the pace. Initially, short duration several times a day with incremental increases is best. Recovering pets will be able to add time and distance with each day. Note: As with any health problem involving your dog, remember to alert your veterinarian to any potential bone or joint problems you may suspect.