

PREVENTING FALLS AROUND PETS



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Pets, especially dogs, can create fall hazards both indoors and outdoors.

OUTDOORS

- Know what triggers your pet's behavior. Some dogs are aggressive towards others and could easily knock you over if they excite or lunge towards other dogs.
- When walking larger dogs, use two hands on the leash, spread out with one hand on the handle and the other a couple feet below to increase your stability.
- Walk or jog with your pet in familiar areas, with level terrain. Depending on your dog's behavior, it could be best to walk in areas away from other dogs.
- If your dog barks or startles a person whose balance is impaired, he or she may be more at risk of falling than other people. Keep control of your dog to protect other people too.

INDOORS

- For all dogs, and especially smaller dogs or even cats that may be underfoot without your knowledge, it can be helpful to place a small bell on the pet collar so that you can hear when your pet is in close proximity.
- Keep control of your pet when people of all ages visit your home. Older people and those with impaired balance may be at risk of falling when they encounter your pet.
- Be aware that if you enter someone else's home where a larger dog lives, the dog may jump to greet you and could knock you over.



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