



Non-profit 88-3037011

EDUCATIONAL MEMO

SoCal French Bulldog Rescue

Old Dog Vestibular Syndrome is a sudden, temporary balance disorder most common in senior dogs but can affect any age of dog, particularly with inner ear issuesⁱ. It can look alarming but is usually not life-threatening and often resolves on its own with supportive care.



Symptoms to Watch For

- Sudden loss of balance
- Head tilt (typically to one side)
- Unsteady gait or falling
- Circling in one direction
- Rapid eye movement (nystagmus)
- Nausea or vomiting
- Reluctance or inability to stand
- Confusion or disorientation



What To Do Immediately

- Stay calm – symptoms are scary but often temporary
- Keep your foster dog safe – block stairs, sharp furniture corners, and slippery floors
- Prevent injury – use towels, slings, or harnesses to help with mobility, ex: place a towel in front of their back legs
- Contact Debra at 909-548-9657 to see if a veterinarian evaluation is needed to rule out stroke, ear infections, or other causes



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Home Care Tips

- Set up a quiet recovery area with soft bedding
- Use pee pads if your foster dog can't walk easily
- Help with hand-feeding and water access
- If vomiting occurs, the vet may prescribe anti-nausea medication
- Support gentle movement, but limit activity to prevent falls



Recovery Timeline

- Initial improvement: 48–72 hours
- Major recovery: 1–3 weeks
- Possible lasting head tilt: some dogs retain a mild tilt with no further issues



Call Debra at 909-548-9567 If:

- Symptoms worsen or don't improve within a few days
- Your foster dog stops eating or drinking
- There is severe pain, seizures, or new neurological signs
- You see discharge or odor from the ears

ⁱ Inner ear concerns do not typically resolve by itself and will need medical intervention.