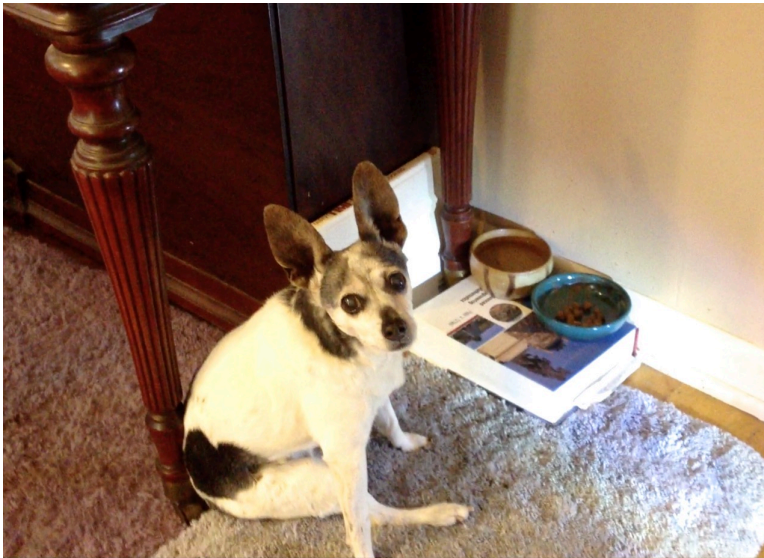


it does, the nutritional quality of his diet may be one factor in your decision-making process about his quality of life.

Second, you can try making a change in the feeding setup. If your dog paces or stumbles around, a good option is to put his food and water in a corner (or possibly in separate corners). Spills will be less likely. But even more important, the corner acts as a barrier to keep your dog from walking on through the food. Cricket tended to walk forward when she leaned forward to eat and would just walk on over a bowl and keep going if there was nothing to stop her. Then she couldn't find the bowl she had just been eating out of. She did best with a slightly elevated food bowl, as with the water. (Remember, elevated bowls may be contraindicated for some breeds—see the [list under “Drinking.”](#))



*Elevated bowls in a corner*

Although I don't normally leave food out for my dogs, I did so for Cricket when her dementia became advanced. I often left some goodies in her elevated bowl in a corner. And as mentioned previously, I also scattered a handful

of high-quality, strong-smelling food (fish kibble or semimoist food roll) on a white rug before I left. She saw and smelled well enough to find most of it, and it gave her something to do. She was able to eat that way till the end of her life.

## Elimination

Your dog may become like a puppy again in the most inconvenient way—and now he will make bigger messes.