

SENIOR CANINE COGNITIVE ASSESSMENT



What is DISHAA?

DISHAA is a tool to help you and veterinarians assess the mental acuity of your dog, and for veterinarians to potentially diagnose Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome (CDS).

Date: _____

Owner's name: _____ Pet's name: _____

Age: _____ Gender: Male Female Neutered/Spayed: No Yes

Breed: _____ Weight: _____

BCS: (Body Condition Score of 1-9): _____ (Vet staff to fill out) Current diet: _____

Please complete this canine senior pet cognitive assessment. If you've noticed changes in multiple behavioral categories, be sure to talk to your veterinarian today about the health of your pet's aging brain.

BEHAVIORAL SIGNS

Identify signs that have arisen or progressed since 8 years of age and older.

Score as 0=none, 1=mild, 2=moderate, 3=severe

Score

DISORIENTATION

Gets stuck, difficulty getting around objects, goes to hinge side of door	
Stares blankly at walls, floor, or into space	
Does not recognize familiar people/familiar pets	
Gets lost in home or yard	
Less reactive to visual (sights) or auditory (sounds) stimuli	

Please complete assessment on other side.

BEHAVIORAL SIGNS		
Identify signs that have arisen or progressed since 8 years of age and older.		
Score as 0=none, 1=mild, 2=moderate, 3=severe		Score
SOCIAL INTERACTIONS		
More irritable/fearful/aggressive with visitors, family or other animals		
Decreased interest in approaching, greeting or affection/petting		
SLEEP/WAKE CYCLES		
Pacing/restless/sleeps less/waking at night		
Vocalization at night		
HOUSESOILING, LEARNING AND MEMORY		
Less able to learn new tasks or respond to previously learned commands/name/work		
Indoor soiling of urine ___ or stool ___ /decreased signaling to go out		
Difficulty getting dog's attention/increased distraction/decreased focus		
ACTIVITY		
Decrease in exploration or play with toys, family members, other pets		
Increased activity including aimless pacing or wandering		
Repetitive behaviors, e.g., circling ___ chewing ___ licking ___ star gazing ___		
ANXIETY		
Increased anxiety when separated from owners		
More reactive/fearful to visual (sights) or auditory (sounds) stimuli		
Increased fear of places/locations (e.g., new environments/going outdoors)		
TOTAL		

Once this form is completed, your veterinarian will determine the cause of these signs through a physical examination and recommended diagnostic tests. However, even if your senior pet is experiencing multiple health issues associated with aging, there may be some degree of CDS.

A score of 4-15 is consistent with mild, 16-33 is moderate, and >33 is severe CDS.