

# 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 1-9 ▪ Vet staff to fill out): \_\_\_\_\_

Current Diet: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### BEHAVIOURAL 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.**

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## 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.