



## WHAT IS DISHAA?

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

The prevalence of CDS increases with age<sup>1</sup>:

8–10 years: 3.4%

10–12 years: 5%

12–14 years: 23.3%

>14 years: 41%

Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome may be diagnosed using the DISHAA questionnaire. In order for a dog to be diagnosed with CDS, owners must observe their dog exhibiting signs across several DISHAA categories.

<p><b>D</b> DISORIENTATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog stares blankly at walls, floor or into space</li> <li>• Gets stuck or has difficulty getting around objects</li> <li>• Does not recognize familiar people</li> </ul>
<p><b>I</b> INTERACTION WITH PEOPLE AND/OR PETS ALTERED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decreased interest or time spent in petting</li> <li>• Spending more time alone or away from family members</li> <li>• More clingy or fearful</li> </ul>
<p><b>S</b> SLEEP/WAKE CYCLES ALTERED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restless or waking at night</li> <li>• Nighttime vocalization</li> <li>• Sleeps noticeably more during the day</li> </ul>
<p><b>H</b> HOUSE SOILING, LEARNING AND MEMORY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease or loss of signaling to go out</li> <li>• Decreased response to learned commands like name, tricks, etc.</li> <li>• Difficulty getting dog's attention/increased distraction</li> </ul>
<p><b>A</b> ACTIVITY ALTERED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decreased exploration or play with toys</li> <li>• Decreased interest in playing with family members</li> <li>• Repetitive behaviors like licking, circling, chewing</li> </ul>
<p><b>A</b> ANXIETY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased anxiety when separated from owners</li> <li>• More reactive/fearful to auditory stimuli</li> <li>• Increased fear of places/locations/going outside</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup>Salvin, HE, McGreevy, PD, Sachdev, PS, & Valenzuela, MJ (2010). Under diagnosis of canine cognitive dysfunction: a cross-sectional survey of older companion dogs. *Veterinary Journal* (London, England : 1997), 184(3), 277–81. doi:10.1016/j.tvjl.2009.11.007

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