



Olathe Animal Hospital

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Canine Cognitive Dysfunction (Dementia)

Dogs with cognitive dysfunction syndrome (CDS) display signs in five categories: Disorientation, Interactions, Sleep/wake cycle, housetraining and activity/anxiety/aggression. Read the signs below and check the ones that your dog displays.

Disorientation

- Stares into space at ceiling or wall
- Barks at the ceiling
- Gets stuck in corners
- Wanders aimlessly
- Looks confused
- Doesn't recognize family or respond to commands

Interactions

- Apathetic
- Indifferent
- Doesn't participate in activities which she used to enjoy

Sleep/Wake Cycle

- Keeps the owner up all night and sleeps all day
- Howls or barks at night
- Sleeps more overall in a 24-hour period

Housetraining

- Walks outside and seems confused, then urinates or defecates inside
- No longer signals to go outside

Activity/Anxiety/Aggression

- Plays less
- Increased anxiety or aggression

If you circled at least one sign listed above, bring this form to your veterinarian to discuss the treatments for cognitive dysfunction in dogs. There are many of medical diseases which can masquerade as cognitive dysfunction, therefore a thorough physical examination is necessary when diagnosing CDS. Treatments do exist for CDS, including supplements, medications, diet changes and behavior modification.