

Canine Cognitive Dysfunction

As our pets grow older both physical and mental changes are occurring. Physical signs of aging are easily seen with their body the cognitive changes of the mind are harder to identify.

Please check any of the following signs that you are noticing in your dog.

Disorientation/ Confusion

- Acts lost or confused in your house or yard
- Stands in the corner
- Has a hard time finding doors or stands at the wrong side of the door
- Is having a harder time going up and down stairs
- Has a hard time recognizing familiar people
- Has a hard time responding to verbal cues or name
- Stares at things or apparently at nothing
- Barks for no reason

Interactions with family

- Asks for attention less often
- Walks away while being petted
- Is less enthusiastic in greeting you/ family members
- Not as interested in other animals in the household

Sleeping habits and activity

- Sleeps more during the day
- Awake more at night
- Wanders/ paces at night

House training issues

- Has more frequent accidents in the house
- Not asking to go outside
- Seems to forget why they are outside
- Has accidents in the house shortly after coming in from outside

Please note that some of these signs can be seen with physical problems as well as cognitive issues. It is best to discuss the signs that you are seeing with your veterinarian and have a physical exam done on your pet to rule out any physical health concerns