

What is Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome?

Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome (CDS) is both a chemical and physical change in the brain of aging dogs. Symptoms are similar to those recognized in people with Alzheimer's. As an animal's brain ages, signs of confusion, lack of responsiveness, disorientation, and behavior changes toward people and other pets may increase or change.

How can I tell if my pet is experiencing signs of CDS? Answer the following questions developed by Pfizer Animal Health

Does your dog:

(Disorientation/Confusion)

- Appear lost or confused in the house or yard?
- Fail to recognize familiar people?
- Fail to respond to verbal cues or name?
- Have difficulty finding the door or stand on the hinge side of the door?
- Appear to forget the reason for going outdoors?

(Interaction with family members)

- Seek attention less often?
- Walk away when being petted?
- Show less enthusiasm upon greeting you?
- No longer greet family members?

(Sleep and activity changes)

- Sleep more during the day?
- Sleep less during the night?

- Wander or pace more?

(Loss of house-training)

- Urinate indoors?
- Have accidents indoors soon after being outside?
- Forget to ask you to go outside?

How fast will the symptoms progress?

Every pet is different in the progression of this disease. Some show multiple symptoms very quickly while other take years to slowly develop.

How is CDS diagnosed?

The first step is to respond to the above checklist. Second, is a comprehensive blood panel to rule out other potential causes such as liver, kidney, heart disease, cancer, etc. A set of x-rays and or ultrasound may also be needed to rule out some of these diseases. Once other causes have been ruled out, and if the history fits, then a diagnosis of CDS can be made.

Is CDS treatable?

- Pfizer Animal Health has developed a medication called, Anipryl (selegiline hydrochloride, L-deprenyl hydrochloride) for the symptomatic treatment of CDS. This medication has been shown to be very effective in some animals.
- Hill's Prescription Diet b/d has also been developed with balanced and specific vitamin and antioxidants supplements and has been shown to improve the symptoms of CDS in dogs.

For more information go to: www.cdsindogs.com