



Canine Cognitive Assessment Tool¹

Made in conjunction with Leticia Fanucchi, DVM, PhD

This assessment tool helps identify early signs of cognitive decline and assess your pet's mental acuity, enabling timely intervention and management by you and your veterinary healthcare team. After completing this form, your veterinarian will work to determine the cause(s) of these signs through a physical examination and recommended diagnostic tests. For any questions or concerns, please consult your veterinarian.

PLEASE FILL OUT THE SURVEY BELOW USING THE FOLLOWING SCORING SYSTEM

- | | |
|--|---|
| 0 I have never observed this behavior in my pet | 2 I have observed this behavior at least once in the last 6 months |
| 3 I have observed this behavior at least once per month | 4 I have observed this behavior at least 2-4 times per month |
| 5 I have observed this behavior several times per week | |

CATEGORY	BEHAVIOR	SCORE	CATEGORY TOTAL
A. Spatial awareness	My dog appears lost or confused in a familiar environment (inside/outside)		
	My dog struggles to recognize familiar people and animals inside or outside my home		
	My dog responds abnormally to familiar objects around my home		
	My dog wanders around without purpose or direction		
	My dog has difficulty performing previously learned tasks		
B. Sleep-wake cycles	My dog has abnormal nighttime behaviors (wandering, vocalization, restlessness)		
	My dog sleeps most of the day		
C. Social interactions	My dog is less interested in interacting with other people or animals (welcoming, petting, playing, etc.)		
	My dog no longer enjoys activities that used to excite them (playing with toys, walks/exercise, etc.)		
	My dog is less responsive to commands		
	My dog appears anxious with changes in routine or in new environments		
	My dog has acted fearful or aggressive toward people, animals, or environmental stimuli		
D. House soiling	My dog eliminates in random locations around the house		
	My dog eliminates in their kennel or sleeping area		
	My dog has shown a change in how/when they ask to go outside		
	My dog sometimes eliminates indoors and/or outdoors after a current walk or trip outside		
	My dog eliminates in unusual outdoor locations (rocks, concrete, etc.)		

Final Score: A + (Bx2) + C + D

HOW TO SCORE YOUR RESULTS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 0-7 Your pet may not be showing signs of cognitive decline | 8-23 Your pet may be showing signs of early cognitive decline |
| 24-44 Your pet may be showing signs of moderate cognitive decline | 45-95 Your pet may have severe cognitive decline |

1. Aladar Madari, Jana Farbakova, Stanislav Katina, Tomas Smolek, Petr Novak, Tatiana Weisssova, Michal Novak, Norbert Zilka, Assessment of severity and progression of canine cognitive dysfunction syndrome using the CANine DEmentia Scale (CADES), Applied Animal Behaviour Science, Volume 171, 2015, Pages 138-145, ISSN 0168-1591.