

K9INTUITION

**BEHAVIOUR ADVICE
CANINE COGNITIVE
DYSFUNCTION**



**THE BEST PAW FORWARD
FOR YOUR DOG!**

Canine Cognitive Dysfunction and Alzheimer's in humans are very similar. Brain changes are very similar. In dogs there can be a decline in:

Memory e.g

- ▶ standing on the wrong side (the hinge side) of the door to get in/out
- ▶ forgetting where his bed is
- ▶ aimless wondering

Learned behaviours e.g

- ▶ tricks you may have taught your dog
- ▶ toilet training
- ▶ basic cues like 'sit', 'leave', 'stay' etc.

Thinking e.g

- ▶ the dog is unable to figure out the next step
- ▶ the dog has difficulty learning new behaviours
- ▶ the dog used to use interactive toys but now stands looking at them, unable to figure out what to do

Recognition e.g

- ▶ the dog starts having difficulties recognising familiar people, places, other animals etc.

The onset of Canine Cognitive Dysfunction can be seen as early as 8 years of age in dogs - sooner in the giant breeds. Almost 30% of all dogs over the age of 11 will be showing some signs of CCD. Although all breeds of dogs can develop Canine Cognitive Dysfunction, not every dog will develop the condition.

One of the best ways to monitor your dog for signs of CCD is to take them to your vet/nurse for regular **SENIOR PET HEALTH CHECKS**. If there are any concerns that your dog may be starting to show signs of CCD, your vet/nurse has access to a Canine Cognitive Dysfunction questionnaire which you can complete. The information gathered from this questionnaire will be instrumental in diagnosing CCD.

Although CCD is a progressive condition and sadly there is no cure, the earlier that CCD is diagnosed the better - as there are **many** things that can be done to slow down the rate at which this condition progresses and to help your beloved dog have a better quality of life. Your vet can give you lots of help and advice regarding these e.g:

- ✓ environmental enrichment
- ✓ nutrition
- ✓ medication
- ✓ nutritional supplements
- ✓ pheromones
- ✓ exercise

