

# COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTION SYNDROME

A Guide to Pet Dementia by Neville's Helping Paw

*Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome (CDS) is the pet equivalent of Alzheimer's. Early detection allows us to support their brain health and maintain their quality of life.*

## Common Early Signs (D.I.S.H.A)

- Disorientation:** Staring at walls, getting "stuck" in corners, or forgetting which side a door opens on.
- Interactions:** Changes in social behavior—becoming unusually "clingy" or conversely, withdrawing and seeking less affection.
- Sleep-Wake Cycles:** Pacing or vocalising (howling/meowing) at night; sleeping more during the day.
- House Soiling:** Forgetting house training or litter box habits (ensure medical causes are ruled out first).
- Activity Levels:** Decreased interest in play, exploration, or greeting family members.

## Helping Your Pet at Home

- Maintain a strict daily routine
- Avoid moving furniture around
- Use night-lights in dark hallways
- Puzzles & gentle enrichment
- Regular, predictable exercise
- Omega-3 and Antioxidant support

**Neville's Helping Paw Tip:** Many symptoms of CDS overlap with physical pain or other medical conditions (like hearing loss or arthritis). A professional nursing assessment can help distinguish between cognitive decline and manageable physical discomfort.