

Dog Dementia Signs Checklist

Canine cognitive dysfunction creeps in, so the signs are easy to miss: **tick what you see in each of the six DISHAA areas, note the date, and take the sheet to your vet.** Many signs have other, treatable causes, which your vet will rule out first.

FILLABLE PDF – TYPE ON A COMPUTER OR TABLET, OR PRINT AND FILL IT IN BY HAND.

DOG'S NAME

AGE

VET PHONE

WHAT YOU'VE NOTICED (TICK ANY THAT APPLY)

- ☐ **D · Disorientation:** gets stuck in corners or behind furniture

☐ **I · Interactions:** greets you less or seeks less affection

☐ **S · Sleep:** sleeps more by day and is restless, pacing or vocal at night

☐ **A · Activity:** plays and explores less

☐ **A · Anxiety:** new clinginess, fear or restlessness
- ☐ **D · Disorientation:** waits at the hinge side of a door, or seems lost at home or in the yard

☐ **I · Interactions:** new irritability with people or other pets

☐ **H · House-soiling:** accidents indoors, or no longer asks to go out

☐ **A · Activity:** paces, circles, wanders or stares at walls

☐ **A · Anxiety:** distress when left alone that wasn't there before

SIGNS LOG (DATE, TIME OF DAY, WHAT HAPPENED)

DATE	TIME	WHAT YOU SAW	HOW LONG	NOTES

BEFORE IT'S CALLED DEMENTIA

Your vet rules out

Pain such as arthritis, urinary or kidney problems, diabetes, thyroid or adrenal disease, high blood pressure, vision or hearing loss, and brain disease.

At home, now

Keep food, water and bed in the same places, add night-lights and stair gates, add potty trips, and never punish an accident.

THE FULL VERSION: DOG DEMENTIA GUIDE & SENIOR DOG CARE PLANNER · ON ETSY: NEWDOGCO.ETSY.COM

Sources: AAHA Senior Care Guidelines for Dogs and Cats (2023), which cite the DISHAA framework (Landsberg); Cornell Riney Canine Health Center (senior dog dementia); Merck Veterinary Manual (cognitive dysfunction). Written in my own words; not the scored DISHAA questionnaire.