

## COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTION SYNDROME

# Evaluation Tool



Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome (CDS) is an irreversible degeneration of the brain similar to Alzheimer's disease in humans, characterized by progressive cognitive impairment beyond that expected to occur with aging. CDS can be difficult to diagnose but affects an estimated 25% of CATs 11-14 years and older.

Because there are many other common diseases that could be causing your cat's behavior changes, it's important for your veterinarian to rule out other conditions before diagnosing dementia.

Pay attention to any patterns tied to your cat's abnormal behavior. It may be helpful to video these episodes to share with your vet.

### • VOCALIZATION

More vocal, especially at night

### • INTERACTIONS

Changes in social interactions with family & other pets

### • SLEEP CYCLE

Changes in sleep-wake cycle, pacing, restless

### • HOUSE SOILING

House soiling in strange places or new incontinence

### • DISORIENTATION

Gets stuck, difficulty getting around objects, stares blankly

### • ACTIVITY LEVEL

Decrease exploration or play, aimless pacing, repetitive behaviours

### • ANXIETY

Increased anxiety when separated from family, more reactive or fearful

### • LEARNING & MEMORY

Less able to learn new things, does not recognize family, less responsive