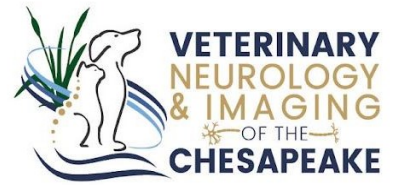


# NEUROLOGY

## Canine Cognitive Dysfunction (CCD)

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One of the most common diseases we see in geriatric patients is canine cognitive dysfunction (CCD). CCD is a neurodegenerative disease with some similarities to human Alzheimer's disease. Dogs with CCD have signs of dementia and senile behavior including confusion, pacing, poor or abnormal response to verbal commands, altered eating habits, and changes in the sleep wake cycle. The behavior changes usually develop slowly over time.

Most dogs do not show all of the senility changes, but usually a pattern of slow progression of multiple signs signal CCD. While there is no cure for CCD, therapies have been suggested to mask or slow the progression of signs. Some of these therapies are as simple as increased exercise, new toys, and increased learning (new tricks).

Treatment for CCD can include supportive care, neuroprotective supplements and selegiline (Anipryl). Chinese herbs and acupuncture have also been recommended. Other recommendations for easing the confusion and anxiety of dogs with CCD include reducing clutter around the house; using simple one or two word commands; keeping a schedule for eating, going outside and exercise; and avoiding stress and major changes in the house; and including short, intense play sessions and exercise the dog enjoys.

One of the most promising treatments is a diet that is rich in medium chain triglycerides and anti-oxidants. NeuroCare, a prescription dog food from Purina, is one food that has been reported to improve cognitive function in aged dogs. It reportedly supports the nervous system

and cognitive system through a proprietary blend of medium chain triglycerides, Omega-3 fatty acids and anti-oxidants Vitamins C & E.

While CCD is not curable, these therapies and treatments can make help ease the aging process for the pet and its family.