Can ElleVet Veterinary Strength Cognitive + Calm Soft Chews Help Dogs Experiencing Cognitive Challenges?

A 4-Week Look at 9 Dogs, Using a Cognitive Survey (the DISHAA)

By ElleVet Sciences
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Do you have an aging dog that's seemed disoriented, has been barking at things that don't exist, or simply hasn't been acting like themselves lately? Sometimes cognitive support needs reveal themselves as stress in the evening, aimless pacing, or not recognizing other pets or even their owners when trying to engage! These age-related shifts in behavior can be disheartening for pet owners to see. During our stress and mobility trials, the owners of 9 dogs told us that they were using our original ElleVet Chews to help support their dog's cognition. They were asked to fill out the DISHAA survey, a common tool used by veterinarians to assess cognitive function. DISHAA asks 18 questions about Disorientation, Interactions, Sleep, House soiling, Activity and Stress. The survey is on a scale of 0-3 with 0 being no challenges and 3 being severe challenges.

By Week 2	By Week 4
6 of 8 dogs showed lower overall scores	All but one dog had lower scores and the worse the initial score the better the response

By week two, 6 of 8 dogs showed improved cognitive scores. By week four, 7 of 8 had improved, with the greatest improvements seen in dogs whose starting scores showed more challenges.

How the Study Worked

Owners were chosen who were regular users of our ElleVet CBD + CBDA Soft Chews and asked to try a new product we were developing. Before starting ElleVet Veterinary Strength Cognitive + Calm Soft Chews, each owner rated their dog's cognitive and stress behavior using the questions in the DISHAA. Things like recognition of other pets and family members, lack of reactivity to sounds and stimuli, getting lost in home or surroundings, and general disorientation were assessed by the owners. This gave us a starting point, or "baseline," for each dog taking our currently formulated Soft Chews to compare with any further benefits by adding other Natural Compounds™.

Dogs then received ElleVet Veterinary Strength Cognitive + Calm Soft Chews twice daily for four weeks, in essence replacing their prior ElleVet CBD + CBDA soft chew. The new ElleVet chews contained a cannabidiol (CBD) + cannabidiolic acid (CBDA) rich hemp extract, and each dog was given an appropriate number of chews to deliver approximately 2mg/kg total cannabinoids at each administration. The chews also contained several Natural Compounds designed to support behavior: Ashwagandha (administered at 1.3mg/kg bioactives), L-theanine (5mg/kg), alpha-casozepine (7.5mg/kg), and phosphatidylserine (2.5mg/kg).

Owners rated their dog's behavior again at the two-week mark and once more at four weeks, using the exact same questionnaire. This let us track how things changed over time, straight from the people who know these dogs best.

A quick word on the DISHAA itself: it's a well-established questionnaire used by veterinarians and researchers to capture a detailed, structured picture of a dog's cognitive behaviors in the home, not just a general impression of "better" or "worse." Because it asks about specific, concrete situations, it tends to produce more reliable and consistent information than an owner simply guessing at an overall improvement. Not every dog displayed every behavior in the DISHAA questionnaire (e.g. staring blankly into space, etc.), so those questions received a score of 0. Other dogs exhibited most of the behaviors. This is why there is such a wide variation between total DISHAA scores at baseline. A total score of 5 would be considered mild, while a total score of 45 would be severe.

What We Found: The Big Picture

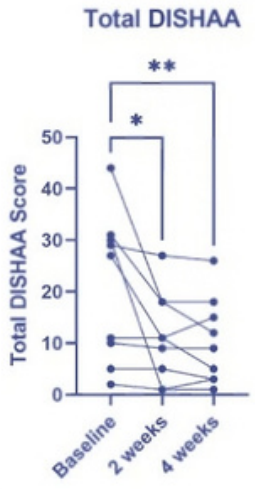
As you can see from the dot plot scores on the bottom right, most dogs on the severe end of the spectrum did particularly well while dogs with more mild cases had less dramatic results since there was less room for improvement. In questions where we had more than 5 respondents for that specific behavior, we saw relative rates of improvement that were in the 45-100% range over the 4 weeks of supplementation.

Total baseline scores of less than 16 are considered mild cases where response was minimal. When the moderate (16-33) and severe (>33) cases were assessed, all 5 dogs in this cohort improved. 4 of the 5 dogs with moderate or severe signs improved by 15 points or greater!

Which Behaviors Improved the Most?

Owners reported easing of a wide range of cognitive-related behaviors, not just one or two isolated challenges. Some of the clearest improvements included:

- **Fear of unfamiliar people and dogs.** Dogs became noticeably less fearful when going out for activities that were unfamiliar or new to them, enjoying their outings with the family more.
- **Repetitive behaviors such as circling, chewing, licking or stargazing.** We saw improvement in these common behaviors that aging dogs may exhibit when they experience cognitive challenges.
- **Aimless pacing or wandering.** These behaviors, often associated with disorientation or difficulty settling, also improved.
- **Exploratory behaviors or playing with toys, other pets or owners.** This was pronounced, with over 80% positive responses from this small cohort suggesting more meaningful engagement in the household and with owners.



• **Familiarity with family pets and family members.** Similar to play behaviors above, interactions with family and other familiar pets were enhanced in the few dogs reporting this challenge at baseline.

• **Getting lost in the yard.** Though a challenge for only 4 of the 9 dogs, all of them appeared to notice their surroundings better and could navigate their environment more comfortably.

•**Restlessness and sleep/wake challenges.** 6 of 7 dogs showed improvement in sleeping through the night.

What This Means for You and Your Dog

These results suggest that ElleVet Veterinary Strength Cognitive + Calm Soft Chews, given consistently twice a day at the recommended administration, may be worthwhile for supporting cognitive function in dogs. Although these signs do wax and wane, the response was dramatic for some dogs and the response occurred within 2 weeks and was maintained for most dogs for the entire 4 weeks.

A Few Honest Caveats

This was a real-world observation, not a controlled scientific trial in a very small cohort of dogs. There was no comparison group of dogs who didn't receive ElleVet Cognitive + Calm Soft Chews, so we can't say for certain how much of the improvement came from the product itself versus other factors such as perception of owners who were now paying closer attention to their dog's cognitive challenges, or normal week-to-week ups and downs. All ratings came from owners rather than outside observers, which is valuable real-world information but could be influenced by owners' hopes for improvement.

Bottom Line

In this small group of 9 mild to moderately affected dogs, twice-daily ElleVet Cognitive + Calm Soft Chews was linked to a meaningful improvement of cognition and quality of life. This is important since there are few meaningful options to support cognitive function in dogs.

As always, it's worth talking with your veterinarian before starting any new product, especially if your dog has other health considerations or if they take any medications. Your vet can help you fold ElleVet Veterinary Strength Cognitive + Calm Soft Chews into a broader plan to support your dog's cognitive function and quality of life.

(844) 673-7287
info@ellevetsciences.com
ellevetsciences.com

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