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A comparison of two screening questionnaires for clinical assessment of canine cognitive dysfunction

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1 Original Research Paper

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3 **A comparison of two screening questionnaires for clinical assessment of canine cognitive**
4 **dysfunction**

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17 Canine cognitive dysfunction (CCD) is a neurobehavioral syndrome occurring in some senior
18 dogs. The diagnosis is currently primarily dependent on owner based questionnaires addressing
19 changes in behavior and daily routines and the exclusion of other conditions which may display
20 clinical signs mimicking CCD. A number of CCD screening questionnaires have been published,
21 but whether the choice of questionnaire might influence the diagnosis of CCD or not, is unclear.
22 The objective of the present study was to correlate the total scores from two CCD screening
23 questionnaires which were developed on the basis of very different strategies. The study
24 population consisted of 50 dogs more than 8 years of age. The dogs were evaluated clinically and
25 the two questionnaires were given in a face-to face interview with the owners. The study found a
26 significant correlation ($r = 0.83$, $P < 0.0001$) between the two questionnaires. The ability to
27 identify dogs with multiple and severe signs of CCD were equally good. This is of importance
28 for research studying CCD case definitions and for comparisons between studies using different
29 questionnaires. If evaluation for longitudinal changes is needed, the Canine Cognitive Rating
30 Scale may prove more useful for assessing disease progression.

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