Could your cat have arthritis?



Arthritis and your cat

Recognising arthritis pain - how do we see what they can't tell us?

Arthritis is a condition that leads to pain and progressive degeneration of the joint. It affects many aspects of a cat's life including limited mobility, painful joints and a poor quality of life. But cats naturally hide their pain, so signs of arthritis can often be subtle. Cats will rarely cry or vocalise the pain they are experiencing. It is therefore important to look out for changes like difficulty when going up or down the stairs, becoming slower to rise, or hesitating before jumping, or having difficulty making a jump. While many cases of arthritis occur in older cats, the condition can affect cats of all sizes, ages and breeds. Many cases go undiagnosed because owners assume slowing down is a natural symptom of getting older.

Cats don't have to suffer the pain of arthritis – no matter their age.



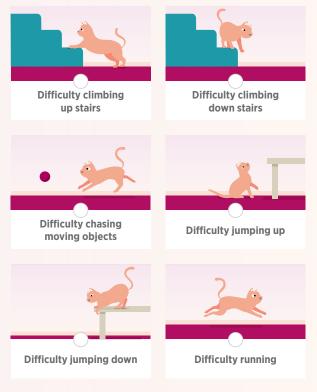
It is therefore important to recognise the signs of arthritis and to seek veterinary advice, so you can help provide your cat with the pain relief it needs.

Could your cat have arthritis?

Any cat can develop arthritis. Knowing the signs will help you determine when your cat may need veterinary attention.

This checklist will help identify your cat's activities and behaviours that might be signs of arthritis, which can be painful.

Think about your cat's activity in the past week. Check all of the signs that you've observed in your cat below.



If you ticked any of these behaviours in your cat, it's possible your cat is suffering from arthritis pain.²

Speak with your veterinarian

The sooner arthritis is properly identified and treated, the sooner your cat can return to a better quality of life.

Many cats are suffering in silence...

...and while we can't stop the disease, we can manage the pain and give cats a good quality of life.

- Treating pain can help improve quality of life and mobility for all cats with arthritis
- Recognising and treating pain can help restore the important bond between pet owners and their cats

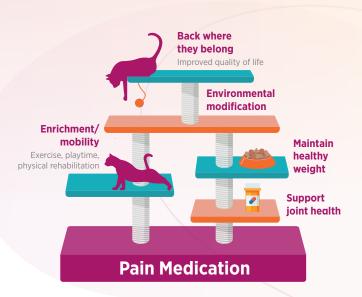
Although the disease cannot be cured, your veterinarian can recommend treatments and a long term plan to ensure your cat lives a pain free life.



Get your cat back where they belong

Start with managing their pain

Pain management is the key starting point to successfully managing arthritis pain. All other supportive care such as joint supplements can be added once pain is successfully managed.



Goals for treating feline arthritis include

- Alleviating pain
- Maintaining mobility
- Slowing the progression of the disease



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References: 1. Johnston SA. Osteoarthritis: joint anatomy, physiology and pathobiology. Vet Clin N Am Small Anim Pract 1997;27:699-723. **2.** Based on the Musculoskeletal Pain Screening Checklist (MiPSC) ©2019 North Carolina State University.

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