

# ASK OUR VETERINARIANS

## Osteoarthritis in cats

Osteoarthritis is a very common problem in dogs and cats. We tend to be very good at noticing arthritis in dogs, but most people have difficulty recognizing signs in our feline friends. Does your cat hesitate to jump up on the furniture? Do they seem lazier? Do they hide more often than usual? Do they limp? Does your cat hate it when you touch their back end? All of these are symptoms of feline arthritis. In fact, ANY change from USUAL behavior may indicate pain which could be caused by arthritis. Unfortunately, due to a unique inability to process most medications in the liver and a predisposition to kidney disease, we are limited in the medications department. The diagnosis of feline arthritis is by physical examination and x rays. If your cat is diagnosed with arthritis, options may include: surgery, glucosamine chondroitin therapy, Adequan therapy, cold laser therapy, acupuncture, and pain medications. If you suspect your feline friend to be suffering from arthritis, please schedule an appointment with your veterinarian.

**Submitted by: Dr. Douglas Schmidt**



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