

This infographic is for informational purposes only and is not meant to be a comprehensive guide. If you have any concerns regarding your pet's health please speak with your veterinarian.



MAKE NO BONES ABOUT IT

Feline Osteoarthritis can be a tough code to crack. This chronic & degenerative disease has proven to be more highly prevalent with age and weight, and often times, cats are very subtle with their clinical signs. Here are some indicators and guidelines that could help you recognize your cat's pain from this cartilage crisis. As always, if you are concerned your cat has OA, consult your veterinarian for the best treatment options.



90% of cats 12 years of age and older have already developed the degenerative disease.



OBSCURE OSTEOARTHRITIS

OA is a chronic, progressive & degenerative joint disease most common in older cats. The cartilage cushion between bones breaks down over time, causing the bones to rub, which leads to inflammation and pain.

DECIPHERING THE SIGNS

Some indicators of Feline OA are:



TOILET

- Poor grooming
- Overgrown nails
- Urination or defecation outside of litter pan

- More irritable or grumpy with other animals or when handled
- More time spent alone



- Decreased jump height or inability to jump up / down
- Decreased joint movement or stiffness

ACQUAINTING WITH THE CAUSES*

*There is no known cause for primary OA, only for secondary OA.

- Secondary OA can be caused by:
- Injury / Trauma
 - Abnormal wear on joints
 - Obesity
 - Congenital birth defects, including: Hip Dysplasia



DIAGNOSIS & SOLUTIONS*

Physical diagnosis can be difficult.

Veterinarians may do:

- Performance Tests*
- Physical Exams
- Imaging, e.g. Radiographs

*Performance tests assess mobility and impairment.

Cats will be encouraged to demonstrate by:

- Walking / running across the room
- Jumping on and off of objects

Any hesitation in doing these tests points to pain and discomfort.



- *Solution methods are currently limited, but include:
- NSAIDs for pain management (very limited selection)
 - Physical therapy
 - Acupuncture
 - Weight loss (for overweight cats)
 - Surgical techniques (less common)
 - Making environmental accommodations (e.g., lower litter pan, higher food & water bowls, soft bedding, etc.)



- At home, owners should be aware of:
- Changes in behavior
 - Stiffness & reluctance to move
 - Decrease in jump height or desire to jump at all



New treatments are now in the pipeline thanks to veterinary clinical studies!

Always bring your cat to the veterinarian for diagnosis and to discuss the most appropriate solutions.

There are clinical studies looking to expand treatment options for cats with OA. Ask your veterinarian about one of these opportunities, and to see if your cat can participate in a clinical study for one of these potential treatments.

