

Cats rely on their legs and joints to maintain mobility. They are naturally athletic animals and eventually this activity can take its toll. Many older cats have arthritis but because they cannot tell us they are in pain, it is often seen only as stiffness.

Feline **osteoarthritis**

Some cats with arthritis are less interested in play and show stiffness when getting out of their bed in the morning. Licking or chewing at joints can also be a sign of pain.

Although some wear and tear is inevitable, there are many products available that can slow down the progress of the disease and promote healing of the cartilage.

How do I know my pet has Arthritis?

Cats generally do not show obvious signs of pain. As they are unable to tell us whether they are sore we need to look out for the following signs:

the signs...

- Reduced mobility
- Reduced activity
- Difficulty with grooming
- Changes in temperament

Arthritis cannot be cured and will need management for the rest of your cat's life.

Speak to your Veterinary Surgeon

There are many products available to relieve painful joints. Your vet may prescribe NSAIDs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) which will reduce pain and stiffness.

Supplements

Nutritional joint supplements may be given to help joint function. Please discuss this option with your veterinary surgeon.

Your veterinary surgeon or nurse can offer regular checks and advice and create a personal management plan to help you give your cat a greater quality of life. Arthritis awareness nurse clinics are free appointments where you can get tailored advice to suit your cat's needs.

