



Winter 2018

More information at
www.coastalvets.co.nz

VETERINARIANS

Guy Oakley BSc BVSc
Greig Hollway BVSc
Jean-Pierre Le Prou BVSc
Sarah Procter BVSc
Kyle Crowley BVSc
Sacha Pyke BVSc
Jarrod Davey BVSc

SUPPORT STAFF

Sandra Hammersley
Chandra Garrod-Harvey
Briani Gray
Dee Tito

CLINIC OPENING HOURS

Opunake

Mon-Fri: 8am - 5pm
Saturday: 9am - 12pm

Kaponga

Mon-Fri: 8.30am - 4.30pm

After hours for emergencies

IN THIS ISSUE

Sore legs and joints
Cat urinary issues

SORE JOINTS AND LAMENESS

Winter is often a time we see pets getting sore legs and limping. Sometimes we just see decreased activity levels (especially in the morning) or more sleeping in cats. **Often these signs in older animals can tie in with arthritis.** How likely a dog is to have arthritis is related to its breed, for cats 90% of cats over 12 years old are affected.

Signs to look for include:

DOGS

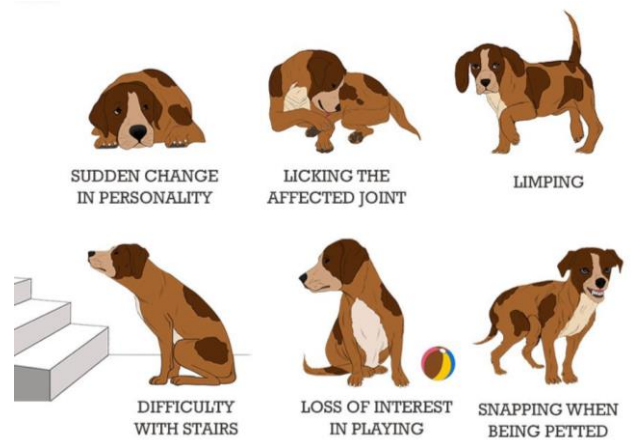
- Limping
- Lying down more
- Licking affected joints
- Difficulty rising
- Less keen to play
- Changes in personality

CATS

- Less keen to jump up
- Difficulty climbing
- Increased time sleeping
- Irritability
- Matted/scruffy coat
- Changes in litter box use

Arthritis in pets, like in humans, is not curable, but can be managed. The best arthritis management plans use **multiple approaches to control the effects of the pain and inflammation.**

These are best used in combination with ensuring your dog is not overweight.



The four areas to target are: **joint health, cartilage protectants, anti-inflammatories, and pain relief.**

Many of our options cover more than one of these target areas. For example, our “Non-steroidal” drugs provide pain relief and anti-inflammatory action – some of these can last as long as one month now. Special diets can provide a convenient way to provide help with joint health, cartilage protection and anti-inflammatory action. Come in and discuss with us options for relieving your pet’s pain.

Other ways you can help your pet with arthritis at home:

Encourage low-impact exercise (swimming/short walks for dogs, gentle play for cats)

Massage the joints

Apply heat pack to joints

Ensure your pet has a comfy, padded place to sleep

A NOT-SO-FUNNY, FUNNY CARTOON



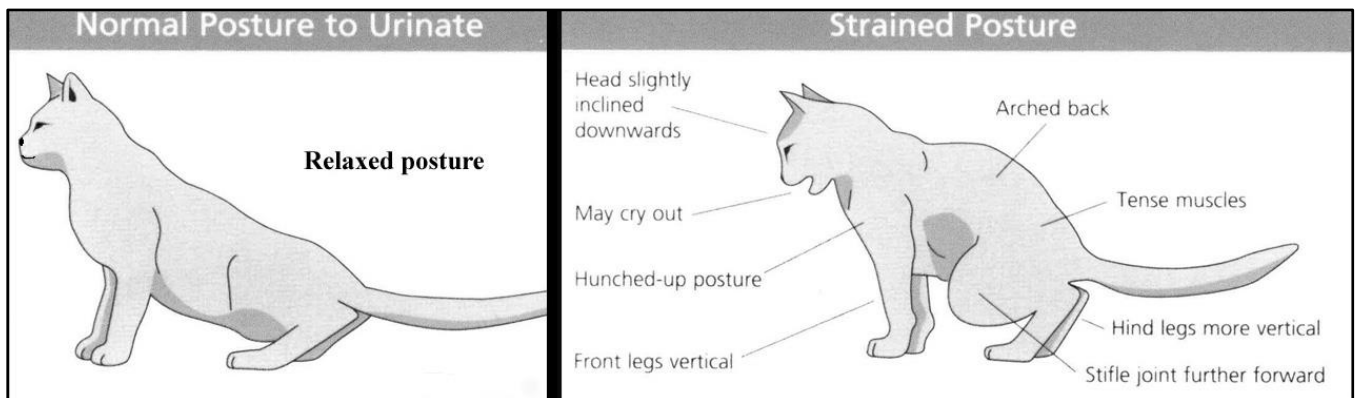
CAT URINARY ISSUES AND TOILETING INCORRECTLY

During the winter months we see an increase in urinary tract disease in cats which can lead to

- inappropriate urination
- straining to urinate
- blood tinged urine
- unable to urinate
- pain (vocalisation) during urination

There are a variety of causing leading to these sign including: Urinary Tract Infection, Crystals in the urine,

and Idiopathic Cystitis. All of these lead to inflammation and pain in the urinary tract.



If your cat shows any of these signs please call the clinic and make an appointment, as there is a risk for a cat's bladder to become blocked and this is a life threatening condition. We are often able to treat these conditions with pain relief, fluids, dietary changes, and antibiotics if an infection may be present.

Dietary changes are a main stay in treatment of most urinary tract conditions which change the acidity and concentration of the urine helps to remove inciting causes.

Some of these conditions are related to an increase stress in cats from a change in a cat's environment (new animal, new child, new house). One way to decrease stress (reducing the risk of and also helping treat some of these conditions) and make new environment changes easy for your cat is the use of a pheromone called Feliway. It can also help if you are planning on moving or have recently moved house. If you are interested in this please come to talk to us at the vet clinic.



There is also a pheromone for dogs called Adaptil which can help reduce the effect of stressful situations for dogs. This is also available via the clinic.



DID YOU KNOW?

FLEAS CAN SURVIVE FOR 5 DAYS AT -1°C!

Even at 8°C more than half of adult fleas survive more than 20 days. Usually the air temperature is warmer within fur and closer to the body, so it's important to keep treating throughout winter to ensure your home, your pet and your family stay flea-free!



BRAVECTO®
EXPECT THE EXTRAORDINARY

**Conveniently Treats Fleas
and Ticks for 3 months**