

# FELINE ARTHRITIS

## Signs to look for!

*Cat arthritis is a common condition that causes painful joints and makes moving uncomfortable. There is no cure for cat arthritis, but you can take steps to make your cat feel better. If you notice your cat slowing down or showing signs of pain when they move, schedule an appointment with your veterinarian right away.*

It's particularly common in cats aged 12 or over (in a study published in 2002, two-thirds of cats over 12 showed evidence of arthritis in their limb joints). But because cats are very good at disguising pain, it can be very difficult to detect.

### Spotting the Signs:

Usually, the bones in your cat's body slide past each other easily and are protected by a healthy joint fluid and cartilage. When a cat has arthritis, the smooth surface is worn down, and the bones grind against each other like sandpaper.

### Symptoms of arthritis in cats include:

- Reluctance or hesitation to jump up or down
- Difficulty going up or down stairs
- Limping
- Stiffness in the legs, especially after resting or sleeping
- Difficulty using their litter box
- Irritability
- Reduced levels of activity
- Less time spent on their grooming
- Reduced height when jumping
- Hiding or sleeping more than normal

### Causes of Cat Arthritis

Some of the common factors that increase a cat's risk of arthritis are:

- **Wear and tear.**

The joints may weaken as the cat gets older.

- **Abnormalities.**

Abnormal hip development may affect cartilage around joints.

- **Injury.**

When a cat experiences a joint fracture or joint injury, it may cause arthritis.

- **Obesity.**

While there is no scientific evidence that obesity causes arthritis, it may make the condition worse.

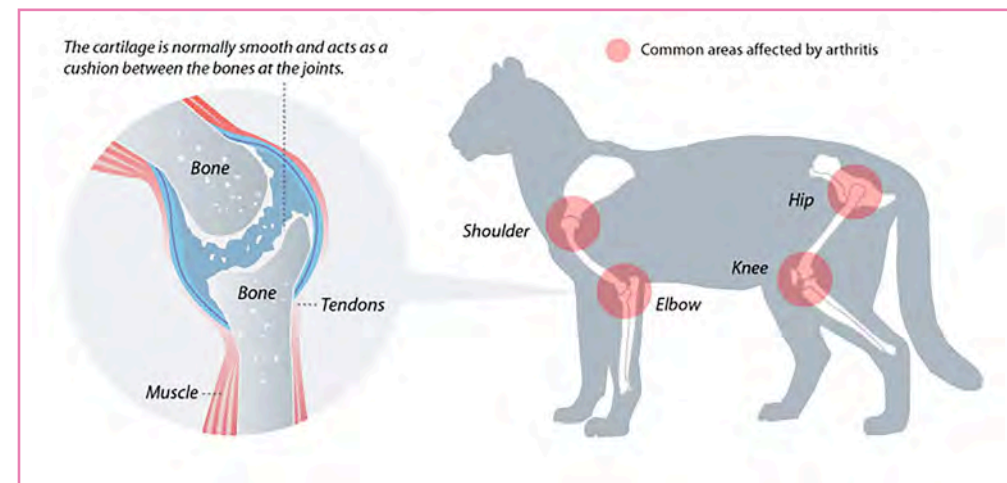
- **Genetics.**

Some cat breeds have an increased risk of arthritis. This is due to abnormal development of their cartilage or hips. This is most commonly seen in Maine Coon, Persian, Scottish Fold and, Siamese cats.

### Arthritis in Back Legs

Arthritis can affect any part of a cat's body, but it's common in the legs.

When cat arthritis occurs in the back legs it can greatly limit your cat's mobility. In some cases, cat arthritis can cause lameness where the cat will begin limping or favoring one leg when they walk. Many times, this causes the cat to become much less active and spend more time resting.



### How Is Cat Arthritis Diagnosed

If a veterinarian suspects arthritis, they'll review your cat's medical history and complete a physical exam.

The veterinarian will specifically look for:

- **Visible joint deformity**
- **Joint pain**
- **Decreased range of motion**
- **Grating** (scraping noise) when the cat moves its joints
- **Fluid in the joints**
- **Joint instability**

To confirm an arthritis diagnosis, your veterinarian will complete an X-ray to take pictures of the inside of the cat's body and especially their bones.

### How Is Cat Arthritis Treated?

- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). NSAIDs are prescribed by a licensed veterinarian who can help determine the duration and type of treatment.

Other treatments can be

- Pain management medication.
- Acupuncture.
- Cold laser therapy or photobiomodulation.

### NEW Treatment:

So what is SOLENSIA® ?

It was launched in Europe last year

TURN  
THE PAGE  
to learn more about  
Solensia®

Source: By WebMD Editorial Contributors  
By Amy Flowers, DVM on February 23, 2021. Amy Flowers, DVM, attended the University of Georgia for 8 years, earning her Bachelor of Science in biology and graduating with a doctorate from The College of Veterinary Medicine in 2003. Her special interests include geriatric medicine and soft tissue surgery.

## THE CATS HAVE BEEN WAITING!

Zoetis launched SOLENSIA® in Europe in May 2021.

The first product in a new class of medications for the management of Osteoarthritis (OA) pain in cats in 20 Years.

“

Globally osteoarthritis (OA) pain impacts nearly **40% of cats** suffering from the condition. OA pain is under-diagnosed as pet owners often think signs of pain are related to 'normal' signs of aging.

The most common medications used to treat OA pain today are Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs), while effective, current treatment choices can have limitations. Additionally, middle aged to senior pets may have other diseases that require multiple medications. Not all pets respond to NSAID therapy and some will not tolerate NSAIDs.

This can lead to under-treatment today of OA pain," said Mike McFarland, DVM, Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer at Zoetis.

"With Solensia for cats (and Librela for dogs), veterinarians will now have access to once-monthly breakthrough solutions for the management of pain associated with osteoarthritis – offering a new alternative to veterinarians to improve the quality of life for pets and their owners."



### Untreated OA pain can limit pets' quality of life

"My clinical research, and personal experience, has shown that OA pain can affect cats in a variety of ways. It impairs their ability to perform their activities of daily living, like jumping and playing, and negatively impacts their quality of life," said Margaret E. Gruen, DVM, MPPH, PhD, DACVB, Assistant Professor of Behavioral Medicine at North Carolina State University.

By alleviating pain, Solensia helps generally improve physical activity level, sociability and quality of life of cats with OA. This new product's benefits are effective pain relief, combined with a positive safety profile in a monthly injectable treatment for OA pain in cats.

In a clinical study over three months, a total of 76% of cat owners reported sustained improvement in signs of pain when their cats were treated with Solensia.

"The monthly administration makes it especially useful for cats, with the potential to bring pain relief to millions of cats who suffer from OA," said Dr Gruen.

### Solensia as part of multi-modal treatment for OA

OA is a progressive disease in cats.

"The best approach to therapy includes analgesics, weight management and exercise. It's important that veterinarians work with pet owners on a multi-modal approach to support the care of the animal," added Dr. McFarland.

PREVALENCE  
NEARLY  
**40%**  
OF ALL CATS  
show clinical signs  
of osteoarthritis\*



Source: www.vetclick.com/news - Date: 14th April 2021 - Author: Zoetis  
Compiled by: Ulla Korterman

## Why is Jake not jumping?

Written by owner: Ulla Korterman

I have read on various websites now how common it is for cats to have OA - it is estimated that 40% of all cats have clinical signs of OA, and 90% of cats over age 12 have radiographic evidence of Osteoarthritis, so I think it is important we as pet owner educate ourselves more on OA.

Active screening and early identification can increase the number of cats treated and improve the quality of life of cats suffering from the pain and reduced mobility associated with OA.

I have owned Tonks since 2000 but Jake is my first Tonk with OA - so I had to educate myself more on this topic to help him have a good senior life and of course to understand what is happening to him.

So let me take you back to 2021 and tell you about his OA journey so far...



Jake is my 10 year old Tonk and last year in June he began to have difficulty jumping up on our counter top where he loves to sit so he can talk to me eye to eye. I first thought is he getting too overweight because he didn't seem unwell – he was eating, drinking, playing as usual and I didn't have any reasons for major concerns. However, the failed attempts became more frequent over the next couple of months and in August he stopped even trying and just sat on the floor looking up and walked away. That was when I started thinking something more serious was going on and literally while waiting for vet appointment he also failed to jump onto our sofa. He was very quiet not talking to me much, but still eating and drinking ok, but definitely not himself!

His blood test came back fine but the x-rays of the lumbar vertebral column and pelvis revealed mild to moderate hip dysplasia with osteoarthritic changes and a narrowed L7-S1 disc space with sclerotic end-plates ( bit of a mouthful!) Conclusion: his difficulty with jumping up was caused by this, but he might possibly also have hurt himself trying and failing, so with rest and medication he would hopefully get better.



**FOCUS ON ARTHRITIS**

In the past Jake has been prescribed Metacam and Onisor. But he didn't tolerate those well (vomitting) and considering his age and being well aware of how their kidneys can deteriorate with old age too - I was already weighing up what to do and how to manage his pain without making him more ill..and I guess this has been a common dilemma for many cat owners in the past.

However, my vet told me that a few months earlier this new medication had been launched in Europe and she had already seen so many positive results with it in their practice and thought this would be the best solution for Jake as his arthritis was mild to moderate.

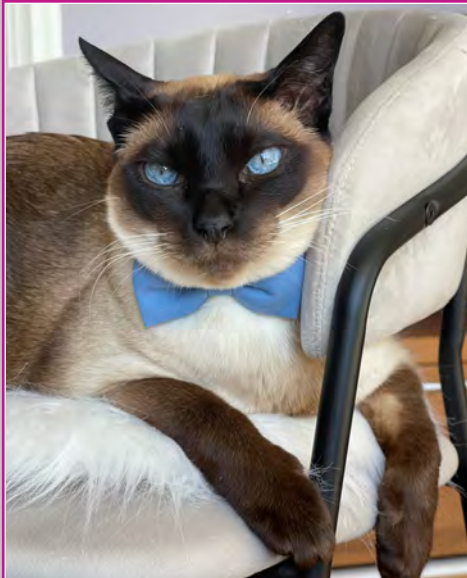
**This is how she explained it to me:**

The active ingredient in SOLENSIA®, frunevetmab, is an antibody against 'nerve growth factor' (NGF) - a chemical found in the body's response to arthritic pain. NGF is involved in the release of inflammatory chemicals, so blocking its activity can help relieve pain and inflammation in arthritic cats.

Because it's not a conventional drug, it isn't metabolised by the liver or kidneys. Instead, it enters the body's protein recycling process like any other antibody. For this reason, it appears to have very few adverse effects and is considered safe even for cats with kidney disease.

Solensia is administered as a once-monthly injection, so it does mean monthly visits to the vet, but if effective for an individual cat it may mean they can reduce or stop other daily medications they may be taking for their arthritis.

The only reported side effect in trials - even when overdosed - was skin reactions at the injection site.



Jake had his first SOLENSIA® injection early September 2021 and during the first month, he became more mobile again and jumped back on the sofa, so I continued with the monthly injections ( not cheap - £60 - but covered by my insurance) and we saw improvements every time and in January this year after 4 injections he started jumping up on the counter tops again - meowing at me, I almost cried as I missed our conversations so much. He has continued to improve and is joining the others in the morning zoomies in the house up and down stairs. I am so thankful for this new medication - I can only say it was definitely worth a try - it gave Jake his quality of life back - just in time!



The Kitty Bling Boutique  
LUXURY HANDMADE CAT COLLARS

Promotion



Photo Credit: Ulla Korterman



Photo Credit: Malgorzata Skuza

**Welcome to The Kitty Bling Boutique. We sell luxury cat & kitten collars that are all handcrafted using the finest crystals & materials.**

I always wanted a diamond cat collar for my adorable little cat Mary so I thought I would have a go at making one with the next best thing the finest Swarovski crystal cup chain. It was a success & she looked sparkling. I enjoyed making the collar so much The Kitty Bling Boutique was created.

My name is Sarah & all my luxury cat collars are handmade to order for you in my studio in Staffordshire. (UK)

I started selling safety crystal cat & kitten collars on eBay in 2007 & a couple of years later opened my own website. I have sold my Kitty Bling collars worldwide & it is such a fabulous feeling knowing that gorgeous cats, kittens & even small dogs are wearing my sparkling collars. All my crystal collars are safety collars with an elastic insert inside the collar enabling the collar to stretch & we also have collars that feature a breakaway safety buckle. The crystal cup chain is securely fixed to the leather collar & handsewn for extra strength.

I use various sizes of crystals ranging from 2mm - 6mm & the cup chains are either silver or gold plated.

In 2013 we also launched our luxury fabric bow tie cat collars.

[www.thekittyblingboutique.com](http://www.thekittyblingboutique.com)

**\*Exclusive offer  
15% OFF SITEWIDE  
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\*until end 2022**