



Adjusting to arthritis

If Jake is having trouble jumping up to his favorite spot on the couch or Riley doesn't want to run around the yard like she used to, it might not just be early signs of aging or laziness. Your pet might have osteoarthritis, a condition that's progressive, but treatable, and easily diagnosed by your veterinarian.

Keep track of changes in your pet's clinical signs, lifestyle, and treatment plan with this form, and share the information with your veterinarian at recheck appointments.

Clinical signs

These are common clinical signs associated with arthritis in dogs and cats. Check the ones that apply to your pet and make note of any other changes you notice in your pet's behavior.

DOGS

- Limping
- Slowing down
- Not eating and/or drinking as well
- Not wanting to play
- Aggression
- Other:

CATS

- Not jumping or climbing as well
- Unable to reach high areas of climbing or scratching post
- Not eating and/or drinking as well
- Not grooming well
- Not wanting to play
- Other:

Lifestyle

Have you made changes—or seen changes—in your pet's lifestyle? Take note of the ones that apply to your pet.

- Changes in environment:

- Needs assistance walking, rising, etc.
- Bedding
- Ramps or tailor-made steps
- Less time either indoors or outdoors
- Reduced physical activity: walking, running, swimming, or playing

- Change in diet: what and how much your pet eats

Treatment plan

Your veterinarian may recommend prescription medications or supplements to ease the inflammation and reduce your pet's pain. Keep track of any improvement or worsening of your pet's condition.

Medications

> Type and dosage:

Have you seen an improvement?

Supplements

> Type and dosage:

Have you seen an improvement?
