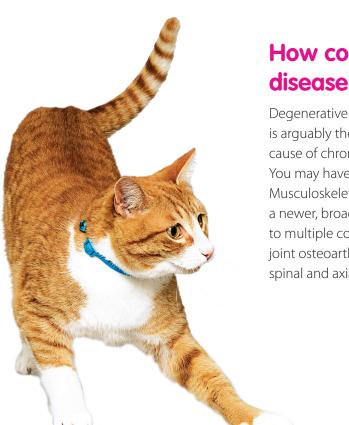
# Comfortable cats

# Helping vets diagnose and treat joint disease in cats



### How common is joint disease in cats?

Degenerative Joint Disease (DJD) is arguably the most common cause of chronic pain in cats.1 You may have heard of Chronic Musculoskeletal Disease (CMSD) – a newer, broader term that refers to multiple conditions including joint osteoarthritis, muscular pain, spinal and axial skeleton joint pain.<sup>2</sup> CMSD does not just affect geriatric or "super senior" cats. Studies which have looked to estimate the prevalence of the condition yield some surprising results:

- Out of 100 cats, 4 in 5 cats aged 5 years and younger had signs of degenerative joint disease on radiography.<sup>1</sup>
- In the same study **100%** of the cats at the age of 10 had joint disease visible on radiography.1
- On average, **92%** of all cats in one study had some radiographic joint changes, which increased in severity and frequency with age.<sup>1</sup>
- In another study 40% of all cats had 'obvious clinical signs associated with degenerative joint disease' following results of an owner questionnaire.<sup>2</sup>

These studies suggest there is a large population of cats living with undiagnosed joint disease and associated pain.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Lascelles BDX Vet Surg 2010 2 (v1.0)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Lascelles BDX et al Bethesda Maryland Duke Univ 2017 (v1.0)

## Diagnosing joint disease in cats

**Diagnosis can be challenging** because cats can be exceptionally difficult to examine. Owners often miss the signs in their pet because cats rest during the day, and often hide pain.<sup>3</sup>

### Top tips

- Raise awareness of cat joint disease among your team and your clients – we need to take a proactive approach to educating owners about CMSD. Use social media, newsletters and the waiting room area to raise awareness.
- Ask owners to video their cat at home watch it during the appointment to enable you to assess normal behaviour and open up the conversation about CMSD. Monitor condition through regular pet owner questionnaires (CMIs).
- **Observe before examination** encourage the cat to jump up and down from the table in your consult and watch it walk.
- **Examine the cat** look for signs of muscle atrophy and asymmetry, especially over the hind limbs, keeping both hands on the cat but take care to minimise restraint.
- **Confirm with radiography** conduct other tests as appropriate (blood work, neurological evaluation, synovial fluid analysis).<sup>3</sup>

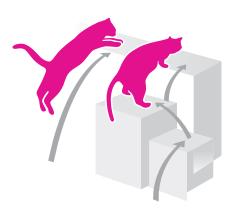
### **Questions to ask owners**



1. How does your cat jump up and down? What is the height of the jump?



2. Does your cat move easily/fluidly?



3. Does your cat easily climb up and down the stairs, putting one foot in front of the other?



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Robertson SA Veterinary medicine 2008 611 (v1.0)

# **Treating CMSD in cats**

A multimodal approach to treatment, which includes environmental adaptation and diet, remains key. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs) are still the cornerstone of management in many cases.

### Onsior (6mg tablets) is licensed for CMSD

Onsior works differently to other NSAIDs. The active substance robenacoxib targets pain at its source and it has a short half-life so the drug is eliminated from the cat's body within a few hours.



### **Efficacy**

A study found pet owners reported robenacoxib was effective at increasing activity and improving the ability of cats with CMSD to perform daily activities compared to the placebo group. Owners also reported a 50 per cent decrease in pain and disability in their cats and a significant improvement in the temperament and happiness of their cats.<sup>3</sup>



### Safety

Onsior's safety profile has been thoroughly investigated in cats; cats remained healthy with no change in kidney or liver parameters at up to five times the dose for six months.4

In addition, in four separate studies, when 267 cats with DJD were given Onsior at therapeutic doses there were no significant differences in their haematology, biochemistry, renal, liver or gastrointestinal parameters when compared to a similar group of cats receiving placebo.



decrease in pain and disability<sup>4</sup>

**Owners report increased** 70% activity, happiness and temperament<sup>4</sup>



## Treating CMSD in cats (cont.)

Robenacoxib is the only NSAID that has been tested in a safety study at the licensed therapeutic dose in cats with concurrent CKD (IRIS stage 2-3).<sup>5</sup> Results showed no difference in key parameters in the results of serum or urine chemistry or hematology variables blood work for the cats with CKD who received robenacoxib vs. a placebo.\*



#### **Palatability**

The small, flavoured tablets are easy to administer and can be given without food or with a small amount of food. In fact, in a study of 160 cats, 159 took the tablet voluntarily.<sup>6</sup>



159

cats out of 160 took the tablet voluntarily<sup>6</sup>



Successfully managing CMSD in cats makes a big difference to their quality of life. Although it can be tricky to spot and treat, vets now have more choice for effective long-term treatment.

Find everything you need to know about Onsior Cat at MyElanco.co.uk



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> King JN et al J Fel Med Sug 2016 632 (v1.0)

Onsior contains active ingredient robenacoxib. Onsior is indicated for the treatment of pain and inflammation associated with orthopaedic surgery in cats. Legal category POM-V in UK, POM in IE. Further information regarding side effects, precautions, warnings and contraindications is available on the product SPC, product packing and leaflets. Further information can also be found website of the European medicines authority http://www.ema.europa.eu/. Storage instructions: Store below 25 °C.

For further information call Elanco Animal Health on +44(0)1256 353131 or write to: Elanco Animal Health, Form 2, Bartley Way, Bartley Wood Business Park, Hook, RG27 9XA, United Kingdom. Elanco, Onsior and the Diagonal Bar are trademarks of Elanco or its affiliates.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Novartis STUDY CRA 09-079 2009 (v1.0)