

Has your cat changed its cat-like moves?

Elanco

Each drawing and description is an example of a possible change in movement or behaviour. ^{1, 2}

Look at each example in turn.

Think back to when **your cat** was a young adult (but not a kitten) and compare his/her movement and behaviours **then** to **now**.

Do you see any similarities to the examples provided?

Cats are individuals, so if your cat has never expressed a certain behaviour, simply move on to the next example.

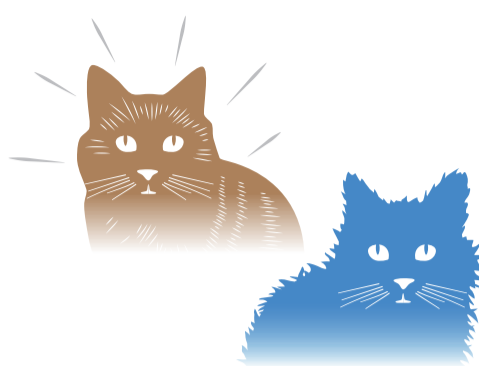
KEY: ■ Previous behaviour i.e. "young, adult cat" ■ Changed behaviour i.e. "cat as he/she is now"



PLAYING

Plays energetically and with interest

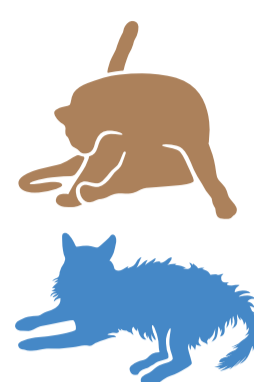
Little to no interest in toys or chasing objects



HYGIENE: APPEARANCE

Good thorough self-grooming: smooth shiny coat

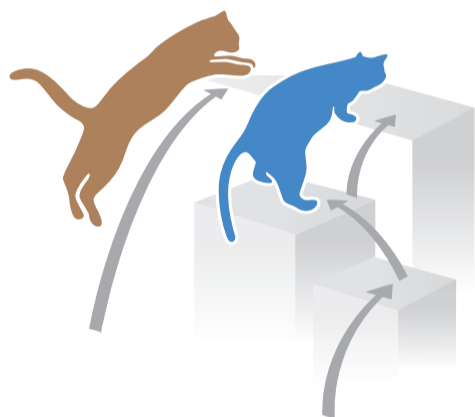
Poor self-grooming: coat is dull and may be matted in places



HYGIENE: GROOMING POSTURE

Flexible posture, extensive grooming

Inflexible posture: Grooms easy to reach areas only



JUMPING UP

Leaps straight up to higher levels without hesitation

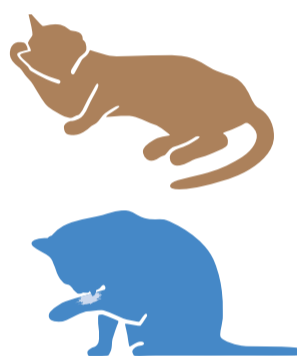
Uses other objects as steps or avoids high-level areas



JUMPING DOWN

Jumps down without hesitation in one graceful leap

Hesitates or lowers body down before jumping. Uses other objects as steps



HYGIENE: GROOMING ACTIVITY

Relaxed grooming of feet, legs, back, and other areas

Overzealous grooming. May cause loss of fur or sore skin



HYGIENE: TOILETING

Clean and tidy. No problem getting into tray. Comfortable posture

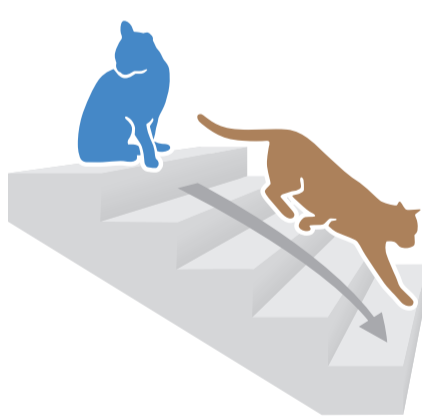
Struggles to climb into tray. Awkward posture. Accidents/missed target



STAIR CLIMBING

Moves quickly and smoothly up stairs without hesitation

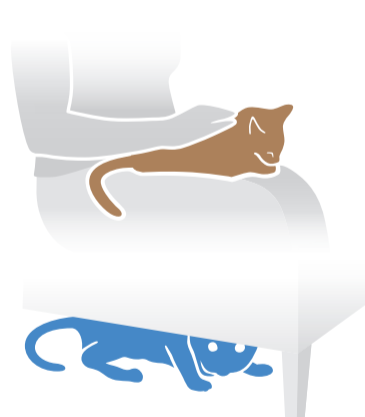
Hesitates or avoids stairs. Moves slowly or awkwardly. Might stop midway



STAIR DESCENDING

Moves quickly and smoothly down stairs without hesitation

Hesitates or avoids stairs. Moves slowly or awkwardly. Might stop midway



SOCIABILITY

Sociable and enjoys company, does not shy away from contact, does not avoid people

Sits in areas away from the family, may hide under furniture



PERSONALITY

Calm and non-aggressive, can be stroked without reaction

Avoids contact. Can be aggressive when touched

The changes pictured above are **common in cats with pain caused by "arthritis"**—also known as osteoarthritis or degenerative joint disease — but there may be other reasons for the changes. If you think your cat's movement or behaviour has altered, we recommend contacting your veterinary clinic for advice. Only a qualified vet can properly assess your cat and make an accurate diagnosis.

Cat arthritis is a lifelong condition, but a lot can be done to help.*

By acting now, you can help your cat feel more comfortable and give them the potential to rediscover some of their cat-like moves!

*Osteoarthritis or degenerative joint disease

REFERENCES

- Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery (2009) 11, 997e1004
- Robertson SA. Osteoarthritis in cats: what we now know about recognition and treatment. Veterinary Medicine DMV 360 website. <http://veterinarymedicine.dvm360.com/osteoarthritis-cats-what-we-now-know-about-recognition-and-treatment>. November 1, 2008. Accessed April 25, 2018.

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