Decoding the Signs of Osteoarthritis

Pets can’t speak for themselves or share their feelings of pain and discomfort – that’s why cases of osteoarthritis (OA) can go undiagnosed. When monitoring for signs of OA in your pet, pay close attention to even small changes in behavior.

**Dogs**

Remember, what you think might just be normal “old age” behavior may actually be OA.

- Sitting with a back leg loosely to the side
- Decreased or loss of interest in play
- Difficulty rising, stiffness or limping
- Reluctance or inability to go up or down steps

**Cats**

Cats instinctively hide their pain, so detecting signs of OA can be more challenging.

- Going to the bathroom just outside the litterbox
- Inability to easily get onto and down from elevated objects like a table or cat tree
- Poor hair coat, including signs of dandruff, mats or scruff

For more information, visit [www.stateofpethealth.com](http://www.stateofpethealth.com)