

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