

Is Your Cat in Pain?

Their Behavior May Tell

Pets feel pain for many of the same reasons as humans, including arthritis, upset stomach, dental issues, infection, broken bones, cancer, and post-surgical pain. Unfortunately, unlike humans, animals are not able to let us know when or where they hurt. Many subtle behavioral and physical changes can indicate that your cat is in pain. As a pet parent, you know your pet best, and can observe subtle changes indicating when your pet may be in pain.

If your cat shows one or more of these behaviors, and you suspect it may be due to pain, notify your veterinarian. If your family veterinarian is unavailable, MedVet is here to help.



Signs Your Cat May Be In Pain:

Change in Activity Level

- Restlessness, reluctance to move, slow to get up from a lying position, repetitively gets up and lays back down, trembles or shakes, limps, unwilling to jump

Altered Body Positions or Movements

- Facial expression: Grimace, furrowed brow, vacant or glazed stare, wide-eyed, enlarged pupils, flattened ears
- Posture: Lays with feet under the body, arched back, or tucked abdomen
- Self-protection: Protects a body part, doesn't put weight on a limb, has a limp, doesn't want to be held, touched, or picked up, reluctance to jump

Unusual behavior

- Aggressive: Growling, hissing, biting, pinning ears back, especially in a previously friendly cat
- Daily habits: Withdrawn or hiding, changes in sleeping habits, changes in eating/drinking habits, accidents outside the litterbox, frequent urination
- Vocalizing: Hissing, growling, constant meowing, or purring

Change in Self-Care

- Grooming: Coat lacks normal shine or hair stands up in places
- Self-trauma: Licking, biting, or scratching a particular part of the body
- Appetite: Decrease in appetite, preference for soft foods