

# Has your cat changed its cat-like moves?

Elanco

Each drawing and description is an example of a possible change in movement or behaviour. <sup>1, 2</sup>

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.

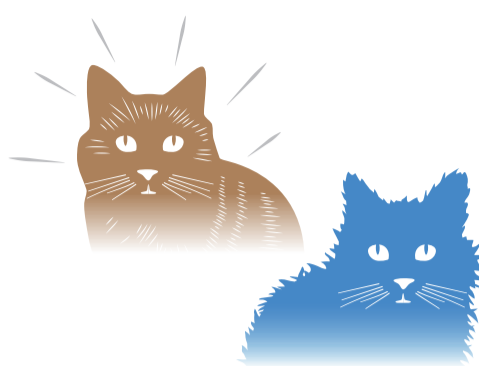
**KEY:** ■ Previous behaviour i.e. "young, adult cat" ■ Changed behaviour i.e. "cat as he/she is now"



### PLAYING

Plays energetically and with interest

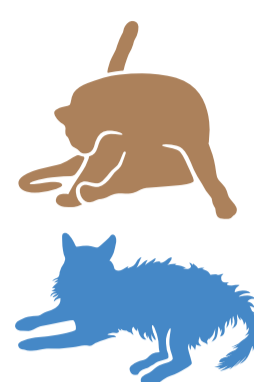
*Little to no interest in toys or chasing objects*



### HYGIENE: APPEARANCE

Good thorough self-grooming: smooth shiny coat

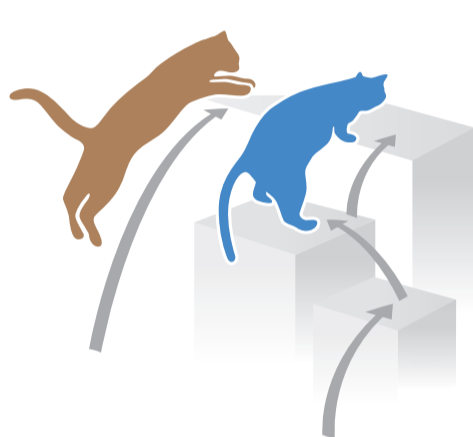
*Poor self-grooming: coat is dull and may be matted in places*



### 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

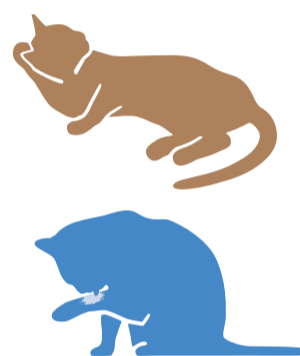
*Uses other objects as steps or avoids high-level areas*



### 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

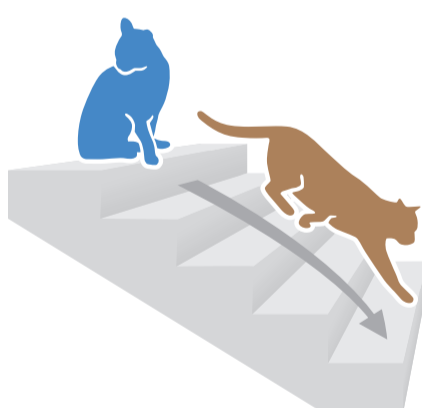
*Struggles to climb into tray. Awkward posture. Accidents/missed target*



### STAIR CLIMBING

Moves quickly and smoothly up stairs without hesitation

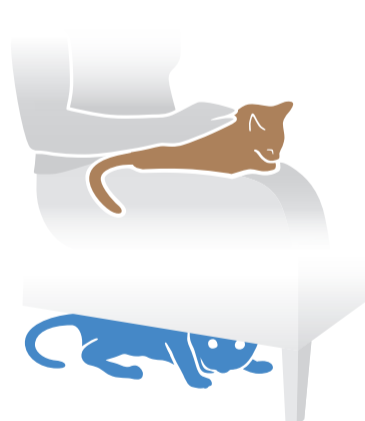
*Hesitates or avoids stairs. Moves slowly or awkwardly. Might stop midway*



### 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

1. Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery (2009) 11, 997e1004
2. 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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