## CAT ARTHRITIS CHECKLIST

## Pain doesn't look like you think it does

- Meowing or crying are the <u>least</u> common signs of pain in pets.
- The most common signs of pain are sleeping more and interacting less.
- Cats most frequently have arthritis in the lower back and the elbows. Less jumping up, jumping down or going up or down stairs may be noticed. Lack of grooming may mean back pain is making it hurt to twist or bend.

## Symptoms of pain (at any age):

- Slowness, stiffness, difficulty rising or jumping up
  - Did your cat used to race up or down the stairs but now she goes slowly?
  - Did he stop climbing up to a favorite high perch or counter?
- Sleeping more, less responsive to activities going on (it's not just "old age!")
- Playing less often or for shorter amounts of time
- Unkempt fur from not being able to twist and bend to groom
- HOW TO RECOGNISE SUBTLE CHANGES IN YOUR CAT HEALTHY ARTHRITIC HEALTHY CAT ARTHRIT Arthritic cat using chair to help jump Arthritic cat will play less frequently onto a table. and spend more time sleeping. HEALTHY ARTHRITIC CAT ARTHRITIC HEALTH Arthritic cat hesitant to climb stairs. Arthritic cat hesitant to jump off a table.
- Missing the litter box due to difficulty squatting or getting in or out
- Decreased appetite or weight loss
- Eating slowly or showing a new preference for canned food may indicate oral pain

Only 43% of pet owners polled believed their pet's quality of life could be improved. Yet most arthritic pets are under-medicated for pain and millions go without dental care and regular veterinary check-ups. Ask us how we can help your pet live a longer, healthier life!