Medical News!

Article: Behavioural Signs of Pain in Cats: An Expert Consensus

A research article published by PLOS one on Feb 24, 2016 developed by I.S. Merola and D. Mills demonstrated a consensus between vets indicating 25 behavioral signs your cat is pain. For more information go to: http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0150040

“Further studies are needed to evaluate the validity of these 25 behavioural signs if a specific pain assessment tool is to be developed that is capable of assessing pain in cats based on observational methods alone” (Merola, I.S, & Mills, D (2016). Contact your vet if your cat has more than one of these signs:

1. Lameness
2. Difficult to Jump
3. Abnormal gait
4. Reluctant to jump
5. Lower head posture
6. Groaning
7. Straining to urinate (this is an important sign)
8. Temperament
9. Hunched posture
10. Shifting of weight
11. Licking a particular body region
12. Growling
13. Avoiding bright areas
14. Reaction to palpation
15. Withdraw/hidden
16. Absence of grooming
17. Playing less
18. Blepharospasm (Involuntary closure of the eyelids)
19. Eyes closed
20. Appetite decrease
21. Overall activity decrease
22. Less rubbing toward people
23. General mood
24. Change in form of feeding behavior
25. Tail Flicking

Kitty Cat Connection Newsletter

Kitty Cat Connection, Inc. is a non-profit, humane organization dedicated to:

- Reducing suffering and overpopulation among feral and abandoned cats
- Fostering and finding caring homes for all rescued cats
- Promoting spay/neuter and adoption as a way to address the problem of homeless cats in our community

Did you know?

Cats are often lactose intolerant, so stop giving them milk.

Standard cow milk has much more lactose and casein than many dairy-loving kittens can digest. “Dr. Calin Heimer, VMD, MS, DACVIM, an assistant professor of nutrition at the Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine states that the amounts of lactase (the enzyme that digests lactose) that the body produces declines after weaning.”

In other words, cats’ bodies are even less equipped to handle the stuff as they stop nursing and get older. “Lactose is a sugar, and undigested sugars draw water into the intestine, causing diarrhea,” adds Dr. Heimer. “They are also fermented in the gut, and can cause bloating and flatulence” VetStreet.com.
I received another question from a young woman that recently has been spending lots of time out of the home and has notice some aggression between her cats. (Note: before providing any advice a further assessment was performed).

Many of us work long hours or spend most of our time out of the house. It can be difficult sometimes to dedicate time to your kitties, but there are many things you can do to entertain them while you are not at home. Many of these are not expensive at all! In addition, research states that a 15-20 min power nap is great for humans; well a 10-15 min power play is great for cats. It releases a lot of energy and it makes them sleepy, meaning they will sleep for a long time.

Therefore, these were my suggestions:

- 15-minute playtime when you get home from work, however don’t do it right away, wait for a few minutes that way your kitties won’t be waiting anxiously for you to get home every day. If you can do this 2 times a day it would be perfect. End the sessions with a treat. Remember this is just a treat, not a meal, so just a small piece

- Add some random boxes with toys inside or brown bags with toys inside, for them it is like a hunting session. Please remove the handles from the bags to avoid accidents.

- For the younger cats, I told her to get some puzzle toys that will allow them to focus on “hunting” for his meals, instead of on your absence. This will release a lot of energy. If financially limited to buy these toys she could make them! Look for many of these DIY on Pinterest

Final thoughts: Ensure that there are more than enough resources for the cats so they do not feel in competition with each other. Resources include litter boxes, scratching posts, food/water bowls, high resting spaces, hiding spaces, toys, interactive play time, and individual petting time. Give the cats a reason to like each other. This entails showing the cats that when they see each other, or when they interact positively, or even when they just interact in a neutral fashion (passing each other without incident, lying in the same room together) good things happen in the form of highly valued treats, food and playtime.

For questions email jeyconsultant@hotmail.com

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**Announcement**

Cat and Kitten adoptions

Friday November 11th  5:30p - 9:00p
Saturday November 12th 9:30a - 4:30p
Sunday November 13th 12:00p - 4:00p
Cats Available for Adoption!

Angel, female, snowshoe, DOB 12/31/05
I was cast outside when my owner left her home. I was living on the streets until I would up in Kitty Cat Connection's care. I am quiet and sweet. I love to be petted and might seem a little shy at first. I am also somewhat of an independent cat. Maybe that's because I spent time on the streets as a senior kitty, having to do whatever it took to survive. It's time for me to have my forever home with a loving, quiet family.
No small children. No other cats. No dogs. No exceptions.
For more information call Sandy at 816-510-4400
My adoption fee is: $100.00

Sparkle, female, tortoiseshell, DOB 7/15/2006
Sparkle's owner passed away and she didn't get along with another family members cats, so she was saved by KCC. Sparkle needs a quiet home without other pets or children. She is a loving lap cat and will make a great companion. She is extremely snuggly and loves being petted. Her foster mom adores her.
For more information on this pretty girl, contact Jeylinne at 913 202 3809.

Nala, female, black and white, DOB 5/5/15
Nala was surrendered to a local vet's office when the guy that found her couldn't keep her. She is a little shy at first, but once she gets to know you she is very loving and sweet. She loves to play with other cats, kids, and be petted. She has been around large dogs.
For more information contact Jeylinne 913-202-3809.

Omen, male, black, DOB July 15, 2016
Omen is a black, long haired boy who was found as a stray in Liberty and taken to the shelter. Omen was very scared at first but now he gets along fine with other cats and kids. His feelings about dogs are unknown. Omen will be altered, microchipped, combo tested and will have all of his vaccinations. He is a playful boy with the other kitties in his foster home, so he will be happiest if he has a kitty friend. Contact Sharon at 816-532-0244 for more info or to meet Omen.

Success Story
"We really weren't seeking to have a cat join our family. However, a newborn kitten was found by some children on a school playground. Kim "the cat lady" was contacted and she then told us about the kitten, saying of course, that it was the CUTEST kitten EVER! We found out she was right and it was love at first sight! Zoie joined our family and we've been living happily ever after! "Even our
Jimmy, male, gray, DOB 7/25/2016

Jimmy and his 3 other siblings were born to a feral mom who was part of a small colony. We took the mom and 4 kittens in. Jimmy is the biggest of the litter. He can be shy until he gets to know you but will warm up fast and enjoy your company. He has been around dogs and other cats. He has beautiful coloring. Their mother was a small cat and so are her kittens. They are almost big enough to get fully vetted. In the meantime, he can still be preadopted. Please contact Britney at 573-356-2411 for more information about me! My adoption fee is: $100

Pebbles, female, tabby, DOB 7/25/2016

Pebbles and her 3 other siblings were born to a feral mom who was part of a small colony. We took the mom and 4 kittens in. Pebbles is the smallest of the litter with a quirky personality. She has been around dogs and other cats. She has beautiful coloring. Their mother was a small cat and so are her kittens. They are almost big enough to get fully vetted. In the meantime, she can still be preadopted. Please contact Britney at 573-356-2411 for more information about me! My adoption fee is: $100.

Adoption Callout! Share with your friends, let's give Jay a second chance

Jay, male, tabby

Jay is now healthy and ready for a new home. He is a wonderful, friendly, and outgoing kitty who deserves a home where he can shower his owner with love and affection. We rescued Jay and 5 other cats from a chicken pen where they had been locked in it for over a year. The conditions were horrid. Some of the cats passed away due to extreme weather conditions but when we heard of their suffering we rescued all of the remaining cats.

Jay is literally one of the sweetest cats you will ever meet. He will get on his hind legs and want to be held he literally will give you hugs and wants nothing more than to be every persons best friend.

He can be somewhat particular about which cats he gets along with because he was not neutered during the time he was kept in awful conditions so he would do best in a home with fewer cats who are females only.

We rescued 6 adult cats from the chicken pen and none have been adopted. Magpie, and the other 5 adults are literally some of the sweetest cats you will meet. They have so much love to give but since they've lived in a chicken pen their whole lives, they do not know how to express it properly. They will pull you in with their paws for attention but they do so roughly. They mean no harm but they lived a life of having to be tough to survive, so they are a little rough around the edges but they will learn with time. These 6 cats are overflowing with love and affection.

These 6 cats are special and they know their lives were saved the day volunteers rescued them, and they are wanting to pay it back by giving you all their love. If you would like to know more about Jay and the five other cats we rescued from the chicken pen please contact their foster mom Sandy at 816 - 510 - 4400.
All adoptions for cats and kittens are held at Tiffany Springs PetSmart Skyview Ave KC, MO 64154
Saturdays from 9:30-4:30
To see more of our cats go to http://www.kittycatconnection.org/adopt.html
Like us on Facebook!
https://www.facebook.com/KittyCatConnection/?fref=ts

We are a group of dedicated, unpaid volunteers who spend countless hours and much of our own money rescuing cats. We welcome new volunteers in the areas of fostering, transportation, medical care, adoptions, and fundraising. Donations are much appreciated and will be used entirely to promote the welfare of our rescued kitties. We are a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation and donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

For donations please go to http://www.kittycatconnection.org/donations.html