

## How to Tell if Your Cat is in Pain.

◇ Cats often disguise the fact they are in pain. Following their surgical procedure, they may experience some pain and discomfort requiring treatment.

◇ In most cases, your cat will exhibit subtle changes in behavior indicating pain. It is important to stay alert to these signs, because the sooner their pain is diagnosed and treated, the sooner healing can resume.

◇ The following are behaviors that may be associated with pain and discomfort.

### VOCALIZING:

- Meows
- Purrs
- Hisses
- Growls

### DAILY HABITS:

- Withdraws from social interaction
- Decreased appetite
- Fails to use the litter box
- Sleeps more

### GROOMING:

- Won't groom or grooms less
- Looks unkempt
- Scratches or licks a particular part of the body

### ACTIVITY LEVEL:

- Restless
- Reluctance to move
- Difficulty getting up from a laying position
- Trembles
- Seeks more affection than usual
- Avoids handling or petting
- Hides

### SELF-PROTECTION:

- Protects a body part
- Non-weight bearing on a limb
- Limp

### AGGRESSION:

*Especially a previously friendly cat*

- Acts out of character
- Hisses
- Bites
- Pins ears back
- A normally aggressive cat may act quiet and docile

## When Your Veterinarian Prescribes Pain Medication:

### Do

- Follow the instructions provided
- Watch for potential side effects, including:
  - ◊ Vomiting
  - ◊ Diarrhea
  - ◊ Dark tarry stool
  - ◊ Anorexia
- Stop medicating if your cat shows any of these symptoms and **call Virginia Veterinary Specialists immediately**
- Keep the medications safely out of reach of your pets and children

### Don't

- Change the dosage or frequency unless directed by your veterinarian
- Give any additional medication to your cat while it is taking the prescribed medication (without first talking with your veterinarian)
- Give human pain relievers (many are poisonous and potentially fatal to cats)
- Hesitate to call Virginia Veterinary Specialists if you ever have questions or concerns