

ACUTE PAIN

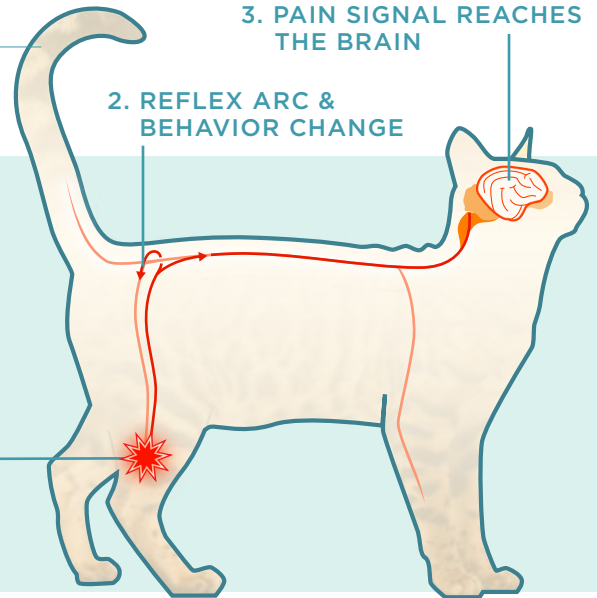
ADAPTIVE PAIN

Acute pain helps us avoid behaviors that can harm us, like touching a hot stove. Responses usually lead to a change in behavior in order to get away from the thing that hurts and stop any more damage. Sometimes this is a reflex that happens before the brain even knows about the pain.

1. SOURCE OF ACUTE PAIN

2. REFLEX ARC & BEHAVIOR CHANGE

3. PAIN SIGNAL REACHES THE BRAIN



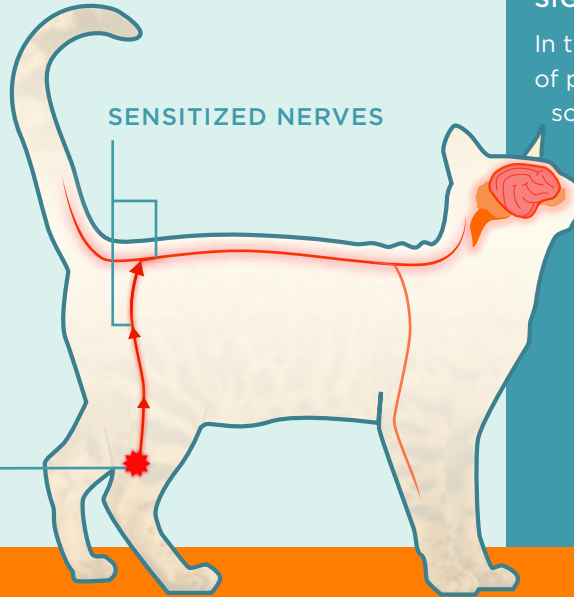
CHRONIC PAIN UNTREATED

MALADAPTIVE PAIN

Chronic pain happens when the pain signal doesn't go away. It keeps bombarding the nervous system until the nervous system actually changes. It becomes even more sensitive to pain signals and can severely impact the cat's quality of life.

SENSITIZED NERVES

CONTINUOUS SOURCE OF PAIN



SIGNS OF OA PAIN IN CATS

In the wild cats need to hide any signs of pain or weakness, that is why it's so hard to tell when they are in pain.

Look for these behaviors to identify pain in your cat:

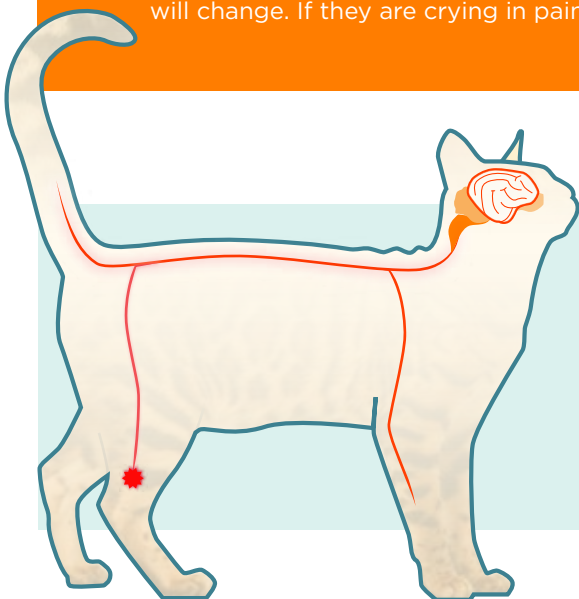
- No longer running or chasing toys
- Hesitant to jump up or down
- Breaks up jumps into small jumps
- Difficulty with stairs
- Less energetic or enthusiastic
- Not using the litter box
- Less social or interactive

CRYING

When people hurt, they usually complain or cry out. Cats don't typically do this: instead, their behavior will change. If they are crying in pain, you need to pay attention!

CHRONIC PAIN TREATED

The pain signal doesn't ever go away in certain chronic pain conditions like arthritis, so it's important to decrease the signal in order to get relief from pain. This is why you need to keep giving pain treatments as directed by your veterinarian.



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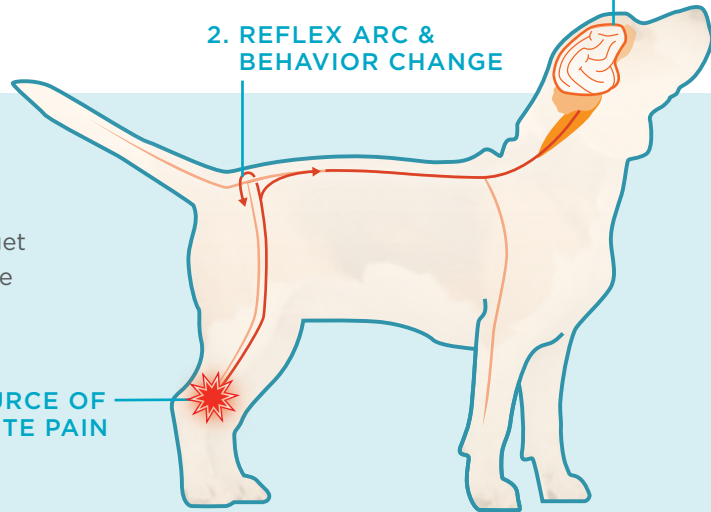
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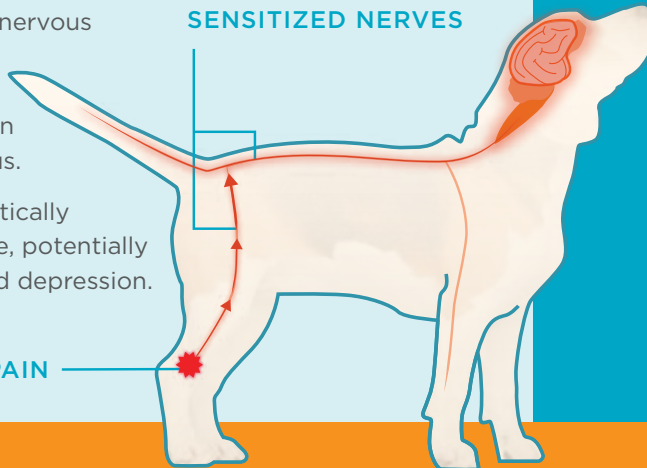
MALADAPTIVE PAIN

Chronic pain can alter the nervous system of your pet so that the peripheral nerves are firing painful signals even in the absence of any stimulus.

Long term pain can dramatically affect a dog's quality of life, potentially leading to loss of sleep and depression.

CONTINUOUS SOURCE OF PAIN

SENSITIZED NERVES



SIGNS OF OA PAIN IN DOGS

If dogs have chronic pain, the signs may be subtle, or they will creep up slowly so you may not notice them.

- Limping
- Lagging behind on walks
- Slower getting up or laying down
- Difficulty jumping
- Difficulty with stairs

VOCALIZATION

When humans experience acute pain they cry out, and when they have chronic pain they often complain. Animals sometimes vocalize due to sudden, intense acute pain. However, it would be an uncommon behavior for a pet who is suffering long term. The absence of vocalization should not be seen as an absence of pain.

CHRONIC PAIN TREATED

Relieving chronic pain at the joint may slow or prevent the worsening of chronic, maladaptive pain. Pain medications give the nervous system a chance to recover. This is why it's important to comply and follow through with your dog's pain treatment.

