PAIN MANAGEMENT

Finding alternative pain killers for geriatric cats with osteoarthritis

We aim to increase the number of options that are available for pain relief in cats with osteoarthritis.

Procedures

• Gabapentin, tramadol or placebo will be given orally twice per day from two to four weeks, depending on the study.

• Cats will need to wear an activity monitor device (i.e., a type of “pedometer”) around their neck to measure their activity level at home.

Owner Responsibilities

• Owner must have a stable routine of daily living that is unlikely to change during the proposed study period (e.g., no impending changes such as moving to a new location, vacations, introduction of new pets or people into the household).

• Owners need to evaluate the pain relief on a weekly basis via a questionnaire.

Participation Criteria

• Geriatric cats (>10 years)
• Cats that stay indoors
• Owner must identify mobility problems and altered activity levels
• Evidence of osteoarthritis and lower muscle mass in x-rays
• No other diseases or abnormalities in blood work
• Cats cannot:
  o Be pregnant
  o Receive any anti-inflammatory or other pain medication

Benefits

• Owners will not pay for any procedures required for their pet to participate in the study.

Contact Information

• Email Dr. Alonso Guedes at aguedes@ucdavis.edu. Please add “cat pain study” in the subject line.

• Call (530) 752-9811 to make an appointment with the UC Davis Veterinary Community Medicine service