

ARTHRITIS CAUSING LITTER BOX PROBLEMS

Harvey is a 15 yr old cat that had as a primary complaint of going outside of the litter box. He also was very inactive and not very personable over the last couple of years.



We decided to try laser therapy on him. A common complaint heard about older cats is that they no longer use their litter box, they go just outside of it. Usually this is from arthritis, not being able to jump in easily. First, one should use a box with a lower side. Next we have used Adequan injections for cats with a high degree of success. There is no long term pain medicine approved for cats at this time.

For Harvey, we decided to laser his hips, knees and back, not knowing exactly where he hurt.

His C.O.D.I. score before laser was a very disappointing 37.5 out of a possible 98.5.

After 6 treatments, every other day, the owners came back from vacation and took him home and to their amazement, he was a different cat. His score now is 48. This is still low, but we hope that with continued laser treatments twice per week for a week then once per week for 2 weeks then monthly, that we will see more improvement.

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pink = before Tx
green = after Tx

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Cincinnati Orthopedic Disability Index
(C.O.D.I.)

Harvey Landfair age 15
feline neutered male
Patient-Specified Questionnaire
Please tell us what specific activities have become most troublesome to your ~~dog~~ cat.

	(0) No problem	(1) A little	(2) Quite a bit	(3) Severe	(4) Impossible
1. Walking			✓	✓	
2. Squatting			✓	✓	
3. Getting up steps to bed			✓	✓	
4. Using litter box			✓	✓	
5. Jumping up to back of sofa			✓	✓	
6. Being carried in my arms		✓	✓	✓	

Standard Orthopedic Questionnaire
How difficult are these activities for your dog?

	(0) No problem	(1) A little	(2) Quite a bit	(3) Severe	(4) Impossible
Walking			✓	✓	
Running			✓	✓	
Jumping			✓	✓	
Getting up			✓	✓	
Lying down		✓	✓	✓	
Climbing stairs			✓	✓	
Descending stairs			✓	✓	
Posturing to urinate or defecate			✓	✓	

Attached is the owner's own words describing Harvey before and after treatment:

Harvey Landfair neutered male feline age 15

Before Laser Treatments—Harvey had developed an arched spine and took small mincing steps with his hind legs never extending his hind legs very far keeping them well under his body. He spent most of his time staying in his own area lying in his bed on top of a shelf where a stool and hamper make for easier access in the laundry area where his water and food are located. He frequently needed assistance getting up and down to his shelf and into the litter box. Harvey complained at times when brushed and frequently voided on the floor when it was too difficult to use the litter box. He only came into the family room a couple times a week seeking special affection. He always let me know when he needed something by “nagging” me with whiney meows. He has always been very loving and appreciative of all the care he required. He regards me as his “mother” since he was rescued from our barn as a tiny very sick kitten and was bottle fed.

After Laser Treatments—Harvey has been a lot more mobile coming into every room every day. His spine is much straighter and he extends his hind legs more when he walks. He has trotted a little at times and seems happier. He hasn't voided on the floor the past few days since he has been home and has been able to get up to his bed on the shelf. His appetite has been very good as it has always been and he is a very loving boy who enjoys brushing now and lots of kisses. I feel his quality of life has been improved and he is much more enjoyable to be around.