

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The cat owner can actually play a significant role in helping your cat cope with a painful joint disorder. For example:

Provide an environment in which the cat is as comfortable as possible. Make sure that its bed is soothingly soft yet firm enough to support its joints. A heated bed may be especially appreciated.

Provide ramps so that the cat can move comfortably from one floor to another or to its favorite resting spots. Position its food bowls in a convenient area on the floor, and use a litter box with low sides so that the cat can get into it easily. You may need to place the food dishes and litter boxes in several areas of your home if your cat has difficulty getting around.

Make sure that the cat's diet is carefully managed in order to avoid a weight gain that is likely to exacerbate its joint pain.