

Appendix 1

Pain scale used in the assessment of joint pain

Assigned score	Response of the cat to manipulation of the joint
0	No resentment
1	Mild withdrawal; mildly resists
2	Moderate withdrawal; body tenses; may orient to site; may vocalize/increase in vocalization
3	Orients to site; forcible withdrawal from manipulation; may vocalize or hiss or bite
4	Tries to escape/prevent manipulation; bite/hiss; marked guarding of area

Parameters used for the radiographic assessment of DJD in appendicular and axial joints

Radiological features that were considered indicative of the presence of DJD were: joint effusion, osteophytes, enthesophytes, joint-associated mineralization, sclerosis, subchondral bone erosions or cysts and presence of intra-articular mineralization. A 5-point scale was used for grading of the severity of each of the radiographic changes identified (0 = normal, 1 = trivial, 2 = mild, 3 = moderate, 4 = severe). In addition, a global subjective radiographic DJD score from 0 to 10 (0 = no radiographic abnormalities identified; 10 = ankylosis) was assigned to each joint based on the presence of radiographic changes and their severity. The axial skeleton was evaluated by dividing the spine into cervical, thoracic, lumbar and lumbo-sacral areas. Each segment was evaluated for osteophytes, spondylosis, disc-associated degeneration (end-plate sclerosis, erosion, disc mineralization or narrowing) and subluxation. The same 5-point grading scale described above was used for each of these spinal abnormalities, and the same 10-point global DJD score as described above was used to rate each of the 4 spinal segments.

Appendix 2

Owners were asked to write down five activities (items) that they believed were important for their cat's quality of life/enjoyment of life. They were then asked to rate the importance of each item, with the

total IS across the five items adding up to 100. Following collection of the IS owners were asked to rate their cat's ability to perform each of the activities listed using a visual analogue scale (VAS) system, marking on the line between 'normal' and 'impossible' to describe their cat's ability to perform each activity. Normal on the VAS was designated 100 and impossible was designated 0. The overall quality of life score (QoLS) was calculated as the sum of the scores obtained after multiplying each IS by the VAS-ability score for each activity, [QoLS = Σ (ISxVAS)].

Quality of life assessment

What activities, or things your cat does, are most important for your cat's quality of life (as far as you are concerned)?

Activity	Importance score (out of 100: note, the 5 scores must add up to 100)
Activity 1	
Activity 2	
Activity 3	
Activity 4	
Activity 5	

Please rate your cat's current ability to perform this activity:

	Visual analog scale (VAS)
Activity 1	Normal impossible _____
Activity 2	Normal impossible _____
Activity 3	Normal impossible _____
Activity 4	Normal impossible _____
Activity 5	Normal impossible _____