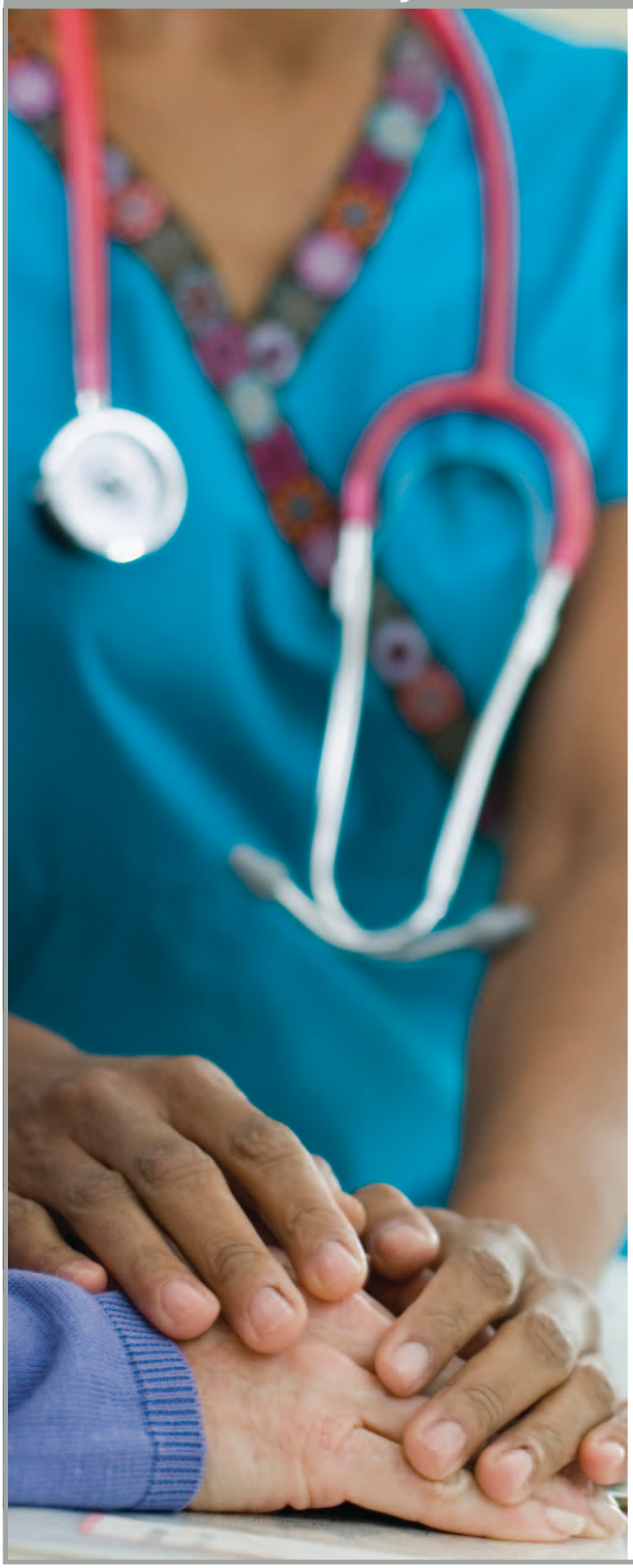

What you need to know about **your pet's pain**

- Pets are often stoic about pain. As predators, cats especially are adept at masking their pain. So pet owners need to keep a keen eye on their furry friends to uncover aches and pains early.

- You can help them by offering different formulations and delivery options for their pets' pain medications. If you can find the right dosage and delivery process, you increase the chances the pet gets the medication it needs to be comfortable.

- The medication you prescribe is important for the pet's health and comfort. So it's important to avoid missing doses or dosing improperly.

- Behavior changes may signal pain. This includes cats who don't enjoy being petted anymore, dogs who become aggressive, or pets who stop jumping on the bed or climbing stairs. Any of these reactions cold be signs of pain.

- Human medications are often dangerous for our pets. Always ask the veterinarian before you give your pet any medication not prescribed by the veterinarian.

- Many options exist to help pets be more comfortable in their homes. Perhaps the client is a handyman who can build ramps for the pet. Or you can recommend the right outlet to purchase products to ease the pet's way, such as raised food and water dishes or cat pans with lowered sides to ease the kitty's way into the litter box.

- Diet—especially to maintain an ideal weight—is key. For older pets with painful conditions such as osteoarthritis, helping the pet reach a healthy weight can help manage the pet's pain and maintain mobility.

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