

How to care for cats as they age

As pets age you may notice a few changes such as weight changes, elimination habits and/or water consumption. Schedule an exam with your veterinarian to assess mobility and comfort to see if medical management of pain/arthritis might be needed.

Try some of these simple practices to make your senior cat more comfortable at home:



Provide a warm, cozy resting place for your cat that they can reach without jumping*



Make sure they have easy access to water at all times and a measured amount of food and try to monitor any changes in consumption



Ensure their litter box has low sides to make entering and exiting easier*

**Speak to your veterinarian about signs and management of arthritis in cats.*

It's helpful to **keep track of behavioral changes** with a journal or checklist as part of your cat's medical history. If you notice anything unusual, bring your cat in for an evaluation as soon as possible.

Ask your veterinarian about diagnostic health screening for your cat

Your veterinarian may be able to **detect issues earlier and treat them sooner with simple diagnostic health screening** designed for your senior cat. Diagnostic screening is also used to establish patient baselines to closely monitor your cat's health as it ages. This hospital uses Zoetis Diagnostics to aid in the evaluation of your cat's health.



Schedule preventive care visits

Preventive care visits with your veterinarian are the perfect time for you to ask medical questions, track behavioral and weight changes, and receive tips for at-home care. Some topics that may be covered during your visit include:

- Behavior
- Environment
- Elimination
- Nutrition
- Oral health
- Parasite control
- Vaccination
- Diagnostic screening

Schedule your next appointment today!

Diagnostic Health Screening

FOR SENIOR CATS



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How old is your cat in human years?

Cats age faster than people; one human year can be equivalent to multiple years of your cat’s life. Use the chart below to find out approximately how old your cat is in human years, and speak with your veterinarian about your cat’s life stage recommendations.

➔ Aging and undetected disease are why regular diagnostic health screening may be recommended by your veterinarian.

Your cat’s age*	Equivalent age in human years	Life stage
7–10 years	44–56 years	Mature
11–14 years	60–72 years	Senior
15–21+ years	76–100+ years	Geriatric

* Data on file, AR-04713, Zoetis Inc.



Diagnostic health screening recommendations*

Use the age chart on the left with the table below to see what specific tests your veterinarian may recommend based on your cat’s physical exam, life stage, and individual needs.

	CHEMISTRY PANEL Provides information on several organ systems, important proteins, and electrolytes.
	COMPLETE BLOOD COUNT (CBC) Provides information on red and white cell counts to detect anemia and inflammation, and for platelets that are involved in blood clotting.
	URINALYSIS Provides information on the urinary system and helps interpret the chemistry panel.
	FECAL Screens for intestinal parasites.
	INFECTIOUS DISEASE Screening is lifestyle dependent for diseases such as Heartworm, Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV).
	THYROID TESTING Determines if the thyroid gland is functioning normally. Recommended for senior/geriatric cats.
	BLOOD PRESSURE Screens for hypertension or hypotension that can accompany certain diseases.

* Recommended by the American Animal Hospital Association and the American Association of Feline Practitioners.

Why wait until your cat is showing signs of disease?

Cats hide signs of illness, making it important to perform regular diagnostic screening recommended by your veterinarian.

As cats age, so do their organs

Diagnostic health screening, when combined with a physical exam and your own observations, is an easy, fast, affordable way to help ensure your cat is healthy on the inside.

Common diseases in senior & geriatric cats

Many diseases can be treated and monitored with early diagnosis.

