

Senior Cats – General Recommendations

- Keep vaccinations current.
- Brush frequently to keep hair coat from matting.
- Clip toenails as needed to prevent overgrowth.
- Keep fresh water available at all times and monitor consumption.
- Monitor urine output.
- Keep other pets from preventing this senior pet from eating or drinking.
- Keep indoors.
- Weigh on the same scale and record results at least every 2 months.
- Schedule twice yearly wellness exams with your veterinarian.
- Present the pet for examination if you observe any of the following:
 - Sustained, significant increase in water consumption. (More than 1.5 cups/day for the average cat).
 - Sustained, significant increase in wet litter.
 - Weight loss.
 - Significant decrease in appetite or failure to eat for more than 2 consecutive days.
 - Significant increase in appetite.
 - Repeated vomiting.
 - Diarrhea that lasts over 2 days.
 - Difficulty in passing stool or urine or prolonged sitting in the litter box.
 - Change in litter box habits, especially if inappropriate urination or defecation occurs.
 - Lameness that lasts more than 2 days, or lameness in more than one leg.
 - Noticeable decrease in vision, especially if sudden in onset or pupils that do not constrict in bright light.
 - Masses, ulcerations (open sores), or multiple scabs on the skin that persists more than 1 week.
 - Foul mouth odor or drooling that lasts more than 2 days.
 - Increased size of the abdomen.
 - Increasing inactivity especially increases in sleeping.
 - Hair loss, especially if accompanied by scratching or if in specific areas of the body.
 - Reluctance or inability to chew dry food.