



FELINE SENIOR QUESTIONNAIRE

As our furry family members age, they can develop the same geriatric conditions that humans do. It is important to note any changes in your cat's behavior or physical abilities to help continue a good quality of life. Monitoring your kitty and informing your veterinarian of these changes can help them greatly.

Many geriatric disease processes can be managed with medications or supplements. If a cat is struggling to jump on furniture, or is slower walking up and down the steps, it is often thought that it's just because they are "getting older". But the actual diagnosis on physical exam could be osteoarthritis. Arthritis can cause your cat to be less social or withdrawn, to sleep more or to avoid the litterbox. Performing everyday tasks can become difficult when it's associated with pain. But they don't have to live that way. We can help manage their arthritis so they can continue to do the things they are supposed and that you both enjoy.

Returning to your veterinarian for routine wellness exams also keeps you on top of underlying disease. Listening to the heart, palpating the abdomen and obtaining their weight are important factors in assessing the health of your kitty. Checking their teeth, eyes and skin can give us an indication of how your cat is feeling. When felines start to feel poorly, they may groom themselves less. If you notice your cat's coat is not as soft as it used to be, or there is more dander than you remember, there could be more going on besides a skin issue. Performing certain wellness care for seniors, such as bloodwork, can detect many disease in the early stages. This early detection makes it easier to manage care and may prevent invasive treatment that may have been necessary later in the course of the disease.

Our goal is to keep your cat healthy and *happy*. We want their quality of life to be the best it can be as they are getting older. We want your relationship with your kitty to be the best it can be during their golden years. By answering the following questionnaire, we can help you help your cat live the best life possible.

Behavioral / Neurologic / Skin

- Confusion or disorientation; staring at walls
- Scratches or licking excessively; fur loss or bald spots noted
- Grooming less; dander build up; matting of fur
- Less interaction with the family; hiding
- Changes in sleep pattern
- Excessive meowing
- Increased irritability or aggression
- Circling or repetitive movements

Mobility / Heart / Lungs

- Changes in activity level; decrease in play
- Difficulty jumping up on furniture or laps
- Slower moving up and down steps
- Limbs seem stiff; no longer bending knees well when walking
- Lameness; limping
- Resents or vocalizes when being picked up or moved
- Urinating or defecating outside of the litterbox
- Rapid breathing even when resting, open mouth breathing
- Tires easily with activity

Body functions

- Bad breath or drooling
- Difficulty chewing; eating away from the food bowl
- Increased appetite; begging for food; stealing food
- Increased in thirst; begging for water; drinking out of the toilet
- Decrease in appetite; finicky eater (needs variety)
- Increase in urination; larger urine spots in litter box
- Vomiting; increase frequency of vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Constipation; straining to defecate; hard stools
- Weight loss
- Weight gain
- Noticeable decrease in vision
- Noticeable decrease in hearing

Pet Name: _____