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# Caring for the Brad Pitts

# of the cat world

# (7-10 years)

## Or maybe your cat is more of a Nicole Kidman?!

## Know how to keep your “mature” cat healthy & happy.

**Ask for our free Special Report to get more details on how to care for your cat.**

**1. Catch problems early – get regular check ups**

Early recognition of disease allows us to start treatment promptly and so maintain your cat’s quality of life for as long as possible. It’s as true for cats as it is for people that early treatment is the most effective.

The major problems we look for in old cats are: kidney disease, hyperthyroidism, diabetes, cancer, arthritis, dental disease hypertension and cardiac disease.

At 7 years, your cat is mature – just like a 44 year old human and that’s usually when your doctor starts recommending blood tests and a more thorough examination for you. We recommend bringing a urine sample along with your pet when they come for their annual check up once they are over seven.

A simple test on a urine sample can give us a lot of information and rule out many potential problems. If we find an abnormal result we will investigate further perhaps taking blood. Identifying disease processes early means we then can treat them or formulate a plan to slow the progress. For instance, if there is reduced kidney function, then we might want to culture your cat’s urine at times to prevent infections from damaging the kidneys even more.

**2. Feed the right food – giving them what they need**

* Offer a high quality cat food to supply the right balance of nutrients but perhaps lower calories
* If they love dry food then offer some teeth-cleaning dry biscuits and don’t forget the raw bones.
* If they have a particular medical problem then there may be a specific diet that will help them. Ask us!

Summer Hill Village Vet ph: 02 9797 2555 fx: 02 9797 2566 contact@summerhillvillagevet.com

**3. Preventative Health Care - parasite control and vaccinations**

**Intestinal worms and external parasites – need treating.**

Your cat needs regular worming – every three months is usually sufficient.

**Heartworm – need preventing.**

Spread by mosquitoes and causing parasites in the heart and lungs.

**Vaccinations – need doing.**

Vaccinations are an important part of preventative health programs and protect cats from disease. We will advise you on what your cat needs.

**4. Don’t miss the warning signs of major health risks**

Ignoring these signs can have serious consequences on your pet’s life.

* Drinking more or less than has been usual
* Trouble climbing stairs or jumping up onto the bed
* Smelly breath or drooling
* Reduced or increased appetite
* Dropping food from their mouths
* Unexpected weight loss or gain

**How old is your cat really?**

**Your cat’s age In human years**

6 months 12

1 year 18

2 years 24

5 years 36

7 years 45

10 years 60

15 years 75

**Why is it important to look after your pet’s dental health?**

Don’t underestimate the seriousness of dental disease to your cat’s health! You may smell bad breath and think nothing of it but this is usually a sign of infection in the mouth. This not only causes pain and loss of teeth but can also affect other organs in the body including the heart and the kidneys.

We brush our teeth twice a day and go to the dentist to have our teeth scaled and polished. If you want your pet to keep their teeth you have to keep them clean! Brushing your pet’s teeth, improving their diet, and having veterinary dental work done when needed can all help them be happier, healthier and live longer.

**We offer special mature, senior and elderly cat health consultations.**

This can be done when their vaccinations are due or at another time of the year. The following guidelines are for healthy cats with no apparent illnesses. For cats with one or more disease processes we actually create an individual plan for regular check-ups and special testing.

**From 8 years old cats we recommend twice-yearly Health & Happiness Assessments. One annual health check with the Vet, which may include blood and urine tests, and one minor check up (usually with a qualified Nurse) which includes body condition scoring, dental & mental health and nutrition advice.**

**Further guidelines are in place for cats over 10 years of age.**