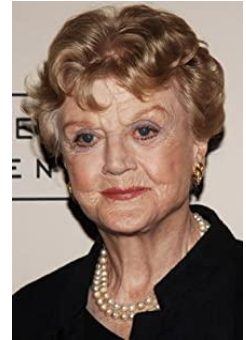




Caring for the David Attenboroughs of the cat world (15 years & over)



Or maybe your cat is more of an Angela Lansbury?!

Know how to keep your “elderly” 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 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. Just about all of these can be picked up early but if missed will have a significant impact on your pet's health and the number of happy years you can have together.

At 15 years old they are now more than 75 human years and are officially geriatrics! Cats over 15 can benefit significantly from check-ups at least twice a year. We have special senior & elderly cat extended consultations that include blood pressure testing as well as urine testing. We will also add an appropriate blood screening test tailored to your cat's needs.

A simple test on a urine sample can give a lot of information and rule out many potential problems. Regular blood pressure checks can also identify hypertension. The blood tests also provide more detailed information about your cat's health. Identifying disease processes early means we then can treat them or formulate a plan for the future to slow the progress.

For instance, if there is disease in the kidneys, then we need might want to culture your cat's urine to prevent infections from damaging the kidneys even more.

TIP: 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 think bad breath is just unpleasant 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

2. Create the right environment – looking after their aging bodies

You can make their environment more suitable to their changing needs by adjusting their bed, litter tray and water bowls.

3. Feed the right food – giving them what they need

- Offer a high quality and tasty “Senior” cat food to supply the right balance of increased nutrients and lower protein and calories.
- Offer more tinned food in the diet to supply more water.
- Offer small, more frequent meals. Warming food may encourage reluctant feeders to eat.
- If they have a particular medical problem then there may be a specific diet that will help them. Ask us!

4. Preventative Health Care - parasite control and vaccinations

Treating for internal and external parasites and regular vaccinations are an important part of preventative health programs and protect cats from. We will advise you on what your cat needs.

5. Don't miss the warning signs of major health risks

Ignoring these signs can have serious consequences for your pet.

- Drinking more or less than usual
- Trouble climbing stairs or jumping up onto the bed
- Smelly breath or drooling
- Changes in sleeping patterns or other behaviours
- Reduced or increased appetite
- Dropping food from their mouths
- Sudden onset of bumping into things
- Unexpected weight loss or gain



TIP: Is arthritis significant in old cats?

If you see your cat pausing before jumping down from a height or you notice that they are no longer using the scratching post arthritis could be the cause. Did you know that long toenails can be a sign of arthritis? Your pet doesn't have to be in discomfort we can help them.

We offer special 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 15 years on we recommend twice yearly wellness examinations – cats with specific disease conditions may need to be seen more often.

At these check-ups we will:

- assess your cat's general health, weight and condition
- examine their retinas; examine the joints and discuss mobility and behaviour changes
- check their blood pressure
- perform a dental examination
- examine the urine not only for concentration and “dipstick” tests but also examine the sediment;
- and discuss nutrition

We will also do a blood test once a year (more often if illness is detected).