

Geriatric Cat Health Observations

Eating/drinking

- What are your cat's favorite foods and treats? *(Record on the Nutrition and Treat Log on page 19)*
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- Have your cat's food preferences changed in the last year?
.....
- Has your cat's appetite decreased or increased?
.....
- Are special enticements or is other assistance needed to get your cat to eat?
.....
- Does your cat drop food while eating or have trouble chewing or swallowing?
.....
- Does your cat have an increased thirst?
.....
- Does your cat vomit hairballs, food, or liquid? How often?
.....

Weight

- What is your cat's current weight?
.....
- Has your cat lost weight without being on a diet or without getting extra exercise?
.....
- When you pet your cat, can you more easily feel your cat's spine, hips, or ribs?
.....
- Has your cat been gaining weight? Does your cat appear to have more belly fat?
.....

Sleep

- Where does your cat prefer to sleep?

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- How many hours does your cat sleep during an average day?

.....

- Does your cat sleep peacefully?

.....

- What does your cat do if they get up during the night?

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- Does your cat sleep more during the day than they used to and less at night?

.....

- Does your cat sleep more overall?

.....

- Has your cat started sleeping in unusual or out-of-the way locations?

.....

Activity level

- What are your cat's favorite activities, toys, and games?

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- Who are your cat's favorite people?

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- Who are your cat's least favorite beings (new visitors, neighborhood cats, neighborhood dogs, anything in the backyard, etc)

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- Does your cat have other favorite animal friends or playmates?

.....

- Has your cat started resting in out-of-the-way places (closet, guest bedroom, in a corner, under the bed)?

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- Has your cat's activity decreased?

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- If so, over what time period – the last few days, weeks, or months – or during the last year?

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Strength and vitality

- Has your cat's energy decreased in the last year?

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- Does your cat seem less interested in playing or exploring new things?

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- Is your cat weaker during exercise or less tolerant of exercise?

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Mobility

- Does your cat "bunny hop" down the stairs? (This may indicate joint pain.)

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- Does your cat less frequently jump on or off the bed, couch, or other favorite perch?

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- Have your cat's scratching post preferences changed?

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- Does your cat "sharpen" their claws less often?

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- Does your cat drag their toes?

.....

- Has your cat's gait changed (walks slower or limps)?

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Urine, feces, and litter box use

- Have you noticed an increase or decrease in urination?
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- Any urination or fecal accidents outside of the litter box?
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- Has the appearance or consistency of your cat's feces changed? Any diarrhea?
Constipation?
.....
- Does your cat pass a fecal ball without seeming to notice?
.....
- Does your cat involuntarily leak urine?
.....
- Does your cat lick their hind end excessively?
.....

Ears, eyes, nose, mouth, throat, and breathing

- Have you noticed a change in your cat's hearing?
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- Is your cat more or less reactive to noises?
.....
- Does your cat have vision problems in bright light? In dim light? At night?
.....
- Does your cat have a runny nose or sneeze often?
.....
- Does your cat have watery or gooey discharge around the eyes?
.....
- Does your cat have bad breath?
.....

- Does your cat's meow sound different?

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- Does your cat breathe faster or heavier?

.....

- Any coughing?

.....

- Does your cat purr more often than usual? Or less often?

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Skin, coat, and toenails

- Does your cat have increased or excessive itching?

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- Have you found lumps or bumps on or under the skin?

.....

- Does your cat have unpleasant or odd skin or ear odor?

.....

- Does your cat excessively lick or chew their skin or fur?

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- Is your cat's skin or fur flaky, dry, or oily?

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- Does your cat's fur look unkempt?

.....

- Does your cat groom himself less often? (Does your cat have mats or a soiled rear end?)

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- Have you noticed longer claws?

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- Does your cat enjoy being brushed or combed?

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- Is your cat's coat thinning? Dull?

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- Does your cat shed excessively or have areas of hair loss?

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Temperature and overall comfort

- Does your cat seek out new or unusual areas to rest that are warm, cold, soft, sunny, or hard?

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- Does your cat's fur seem fluffed up?

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- Does your cat sit in a hunched position?

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- Does she shiver or tremble?

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- Does your cat pant, or breathe with an open mouth?

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Mentation

(If your cat exhibits these signs, see also the "Cognitive Assessment and Health Concerns for Cats" form on pages 21-24.)

- Is your cat less interested in greeting you when you get home?

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- Has your cat been less interactive with the family?

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- Is your cat more clingy or anxious?

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- Does your cat pace during the day or night?

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- Does your cat stare off into space?

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- Does your cat seem irritable or act more aggressively?

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- Does your cat seem disoriented or distant?

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- Does your cat become agitated at certain times of the day?

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- Does your cat get stuck in odd locations or appear lost?

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- Does your cat vocalize inappropriately (meow at night for no apparent reason)?

.....

- Does your cat circle? (If so, is it one direction or both?)

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- Has your cat had a seizure?

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