

SENIOR CATS HEALTH PROBLEMS

A cat that is well taken care of and sees the vet regularly can sometimes live up to twenty years! As your cat gets older, he will develop special needs. You will need to seek out ways to make his life as comfortable as possible and be ready to treat any special health problems. The following are some examples of common health problems that affect senior cats: jumping, deafness, blindness.

JUMPING

Arthritis, in particular, can affect older cats. Cats are great jumpers, and they make use of this ability many times during their daily activities. When a cat reaches his senior years, he will no longer be able to jump as easily. This is especially true of cats that develop arthritis. This condition is particularly common in cats that have had joint injuries in the past. Its effects range from slight stiffness to complete debilitation. If your cat seems to be suffering from arthritis, take him to the vet. Many cats are given glucosamine to relieve the pain and swelling caused by arthritis. Keep in mind that many cats have severe reactions to medications like aspirin, so as much as it hurts you to see your cat in pain, wait for a prescription from your veterinarian before giving any medication to your kitty.

DEAFNESS

One condition that commonly affects senior cats is deafness. Cats that have reached their senior years often experience a loss of hearing, some more than others. To help your cat adjust to this change as easily as possible, you will have to make some changes of your own. First, try talking louder. Your cat may not be completely deaf. He may still be able to catch some words, or at the very least, to pick up some vibrations and realize you're trying to get his attention. Also, try using some hand motions. If he sees a movement out of the corner of his eye, he will likely turn his head to see what it is and find you there, attempting to get his attention.

BLINDNESS

Just as with humans, a cat's eyesight will start to deteriorate as he gets older. You may see him bumping into things or not noticing people walking by. Basically, the only way you can help your cat through this time is to be patient with him. You will need to keep a closer eye on him to make sure he doesn't hurt himself and make some adjustments in the house to help him get around, if necessary. Keep in mind that cats tend to be very prideful, so try to be sensitive of your kitty's feelings during this difficult time.