

So when is my cat
in its senior years?



Well this depends on your cat's age, size, breed and lifestyle but in general terms 1 year of a cats life is equivalent to 7 years in human terms.

Pets age much more rapidly than humans and this gradual onset of "ageing problems" often goes unnoticed in a previously healthy pet until signs of disease are obvious.

Why is it important
to do this annually?

Taking your cat for a Senior Health Check each year will allow regular monitoring of your cat's health. Even where no underlying disease is found, these tests provide your vet with a baseline for any future testing. Early detection of underlying disorders can lead to earlier treatment which will help maintain a good quality of life for your cat at a lower cost to you.

Ask your Vet about a Senior Health Check today and keep your cat – A Happy Healthy Pet!

Delivering excellence and innovation in animal health

NationWide Laboratories is a trading business of National Veterinary Services Ltd., Unit 4, Jamage Ind Est, Talke Pits, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs ST7 1XW.

A Happy Healthy Cat

**Let's work to keep
it that way**

Just as we age, so do our cats and while they can't tell us how they are feeling, there are ways in which you can ensure, as your pet gets older, that they are in the best possible health.

Underlying causes of illness and disease can be picked up earlier by regular visits to your veterinary practice for a **Senior Health Check**

Practice



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What can I do to keep my ageing cat healthy?



Regular exercise, a good diet, timely vaccines and good dental monitoring will all help to keep your cat healthy.

You know your cat better than anyone else - look out for:

- Behavioural changes
- A change in appetite whether increased or decreased
- An increase in drinking and urination
- Lower activity and lethargy
- Any changes in their stools
- Lameness or reduced mobility after resting or during exercise

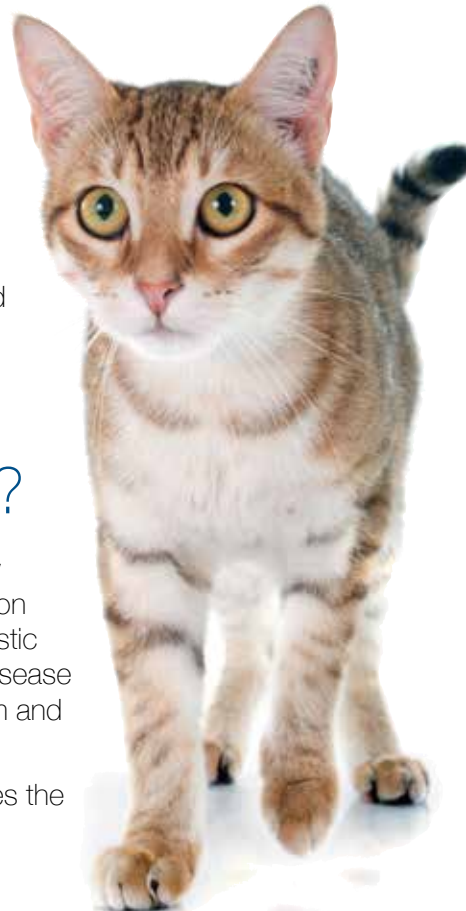
If you spot any of these signs contact your veterinary surgeon for advice.

As your cat ages, underlying changes may occur which, if discovered earlier, can be treated at a lower cost and may help prevent or slow age related problems in your cat.

What can my vet do to keep my cat healthy?

Your vet will check the physical health of your cat by conducting a thorough clinical examination. In addition they may recommend sending samples to a diagnostic laboratory to look for signs of organ disfunction or disease such as Diabetes, Diabetes Mellitus, Hypothyroidism and kidney disease as well as many others.

Early diagnosis enables earlier treatment and reduces the likelihood of unnecessary suffering.



What do these tests involve?

As part of the Senior Health Check, which ideally should be done once a year, your vet will take a blood sample from your cat and may also ask for a urine sample. These samples will be sent to a diagnostic laboratory and the results used to monitor your cat's health.

For example:- **Urine analysis** - will look for substances which shouldn't be present in your cat's urine. (See table below)

Substance	What this means
Protein	A variety of conditions including disease of the kidney, inflammatory diseases or some tumours
Red blood cells	May indicate bleeding into urinary tract
White blood cells	Possible indicator of urinary infection
Crystal formation	Indicator of possible stone formation
Glucose	Possible diabetes mellitus

Blood Count - Blood analysis allows evaluation for anaemia, nutritional status, and presence of inflammation, stress and inability to fight disease, specific diseases, and clotting defects.

Blood Chemistry - This will give an indication of how various organs are working. Low or high levels of various components in the blood will give information on the health status of your cat and indicate whether there are any early signs of underlying malfunctions in organs such as the liver, kidneys and pancreas.

Hormone levels – For example, they will give an indication of how your cat's thyroid is functioning. Elderly cats can suffer with an overactive thyroid (hyperthyroidism) leading to hyperactivity and weight loss.

