Living with a senior cat has rewards as well as challenges that are a bit different than those encountered when living with a younger cat. This guide gives you advice on helping them live a well and happy senior life.

**LIVING WITH A SENIOR CAT**

Living with a senior cat has rewards as well as challenges that are a bit different than those encountered when living with a younger cat. Pain is not something we want to see in any of our pets, however senior cats are more likely to develop conditions and illnesses that create pain and discomfort.

Many of our cats hide their pain very effectively. While we may sometimes see our older cat limping or favouring one leg or another, more often than not our senior cats simply become less active. They spend more time sleeping and resting and may be reluctant to jump onto surfaces that were easily accessible previously.

**SIX TIPS FOR LOOKING AFTER YOUR SENIOR CAT**

With good care — and good luck — our cats can live well into their late teens and even their twenties. But as cats age their physical and behavioural needs change.

While these changes are obvious as your kitten matures into an adult cat, the changes when your cat transitions from an adult to a senior — starting at 11 years old — can be harder to spot.

Here are the top six ways to care for aging cats:

1. **PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR CAT’S DIET**

   Senior cats have unique dietary and behavioural needs. It is more important than ever during the senior years for your cat to be a healthy weight to maintain optimum health.

   Talk to your veterinarian about how and when to transition your cat to a senior food. Your veterinarian will help you assess your cat’s optimum weight and can recommend a senior food to help maintain, lose or gain weight.

   A cat’s digestion is also improved by feeding them small, frequent meals throughout the day and night. Measure your cat’s daily food and distribute it in small portions.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**CARING FOR YOUR SENIOR CAT**

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**TIP**

Maintaining a good relationship with your veterinarian is critical when discussing care and quality of life for your cat in their senior years. Ideally, cats over 11 years of age should see the veterinarian every six months.
Since our official opening in 1913, we have been a voice for animals without owners caring for thousands of cats and dogs each year. Pioneers for fair animal laws, we continue to work on the front line to reduce the number of lost, abandoned and stray cats and dogs.

We rely on public support to run services and programs, including: proactive adoption, foster care, behaviour rehabilitation, low cost desexing and microchipping, and the promotion of better pet ownership through education.