



❁ Senior Moments ❁

BY DUKE..WHERE IS THAT LITTER BOX?

Cats over the age of 10 can suffer from degenerative brain disease similar to humans and dogs. It is not as well researched or documented but clinically cats can have memory and behavior changes much like Alzheimer's. Typical signs are [wandering](#), [vocalization](#), [annoying night time activity](#), [spatial disorientation](#), [house soiling](#), [fear](#), [hiding](#), [restlessness](#), [lack of grooming](#), and [clinginess or aggression](#) (much like old people!). The diagnosis is based on good observation and history from the owner and ruling out common medical problems with blood work and radiographs. Hypertension, hyperthyroid, kidney and heart disease, behavior problems. Multiple con-

comerly cat as well as the cognitive. Brain pathology is documented using MRI and postmortem loss of neurons and is seen in cat brains. Micro and oxidative damage is seen lesions of Alzheimer's have not geriatric cats are difficult as cats are notorious non-performers in a lab setting. (Think I'll just take a nap), More research is needed to find ways to delay the onset of pathology and to improve function in impaired cats..



ditions may be present in the elderly disorder.

documented in humans and dogs exam. Frontal lobe atrophy, creased ventricle size is also hemorrhage, amyloid deposits in all 3 species. Certain specific been observed. Clinical studies of

After ruling out other medical problems, treatment consists of a threefold program: [Diet and supplements](#), [medications](#) and [environmental enrichment](#).

[Diets](#) with increased antioxidants and fatty acids have been shown to improve memory and learning in dogs. A commercial diet has not been made for cats but a 5 year feeding study of cats age 8-17 given increased fatty acids and antioxidants in the diet

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showed a significantly longer life span over the control group.

Medications are available for humans and dogs but none are approved for cats. We have used the canine drug, *Selegiline*, for vocalization, disorientation and age related behavior problems with some success. Other drugs may be used for anxiety such as buspirone or lorazepam for helping with night wakefulness. (*Do not give your cat any of your medications!*) Natural products include *pheromones* (Felway), melatonin, aromatherapy (yah tuna oil behind the ears) and talking to your cat in the wee hours. **Acupuncture and chiropractic** are also viable alternatives for arthritis.

Don't forget **environmental enrichment** and home modification for your senior cat. More litter boxes, interactive toys such as food containing balls or hanging toys. Perhaps a smaller room with everything the cat needs. Provide low perches to see the world or steps to the bed. Heated beds for arthritis, kitty massage, brushing and nail clipping are appreciated by the senior.

We are committed to the best quality of life for your senior cat. Bi annual exam is recommended to stay ahead of the changes and to consult on new modes of therapy with your kitty's doctor.

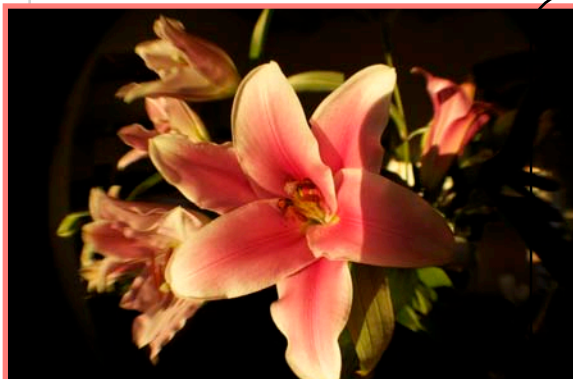
Products for your Senior Cat

- Felway: pheromone spray or diffuser
- Amino B plex: anti-oxidant
- Sam E: maintain cell membranes
- Welactin: omega 3 fatty acid supplement
- Megaflex: glucosamine chondroitin powder
- Selegiline: enhances nerve transmission
- Royal Canin Senior (dry food): yummy

If you would like more information:

fabcats.org

catvets.com



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VERY TOXIC TO KIDNEYS !***

PETPOISONHELPLINE.COM

CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR MANY OTHER
PLANTS DANGEROUS TO YOUR CAT.
1-800-213-6680 HOTLINE (\$35 PER CALL)
DON'T LET CURIOSITY KILL THE CAT.