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Senior Cats

As pet owner responsibility and veterinary care have improved, we now have many more geriatric cats. And, just like humans and dogs, old cats develop geriatric diseases, including cognitive dysfunction (kitty Alzheimers). Cognitive dysfunction syndrome (CDS) is estimated to occur in over 50% of cats that are over 15 years of age and in some cats starting at 11 years of age.

Common behavior changes include:

- confusion (getting trapped in corners, etc.)
- altered relationships with owners or other cats
- inappropriate vocalization (loud crying at night)
- increased or decreased consumption of food
- decreased grooming
- irritability
- changes in sleep/wake patterns
- changes in activity (aimless wandering, pacing, or decreased activity)

If your cat is exhibiting any of these behavioral changes, a visit to the veterinarian is in order. Some of the problems may be due to a specific physiological problem and may be treatable. Or your veterinarian may recommend changes in diet or environment. In any case, it is nice to know that you are doing your very best for your kitty's senior years.