

Life Stages Of A Cat

Regular veterinary visits are key to monitoring your pet's health and catching changes early. Cats, with their playful nature and soothing purrs, go through distinct life stages that vary by breed, age, and size. Understanding these phases helps provide tailored care, ensuring a healthier life and a stronger bond between you and your pet.¹

STAGE 1: Kitten

(6-16 weeks of age) – Kittens begin weaning off their mother's milk and exploring their surroundings.

- Frequent healthy development examinations
- Initial vaccination series
- Check for intestinal parasites
- Preventative deworming
- Heartworm and flea prevention for all patients
- High-quality growth diet for proper development
- Positive contact with other people and pets (critical for proper socialization)
- Introduce home dental care
- Begin grooming your pet to reduce anxiety later



STAGE 2: Young Adult

(6-12 months) – Cats' growth begins to slow and sexual maturity is reached.

- Annual physical exam
- Regular exercise to promote good body conditioning
- Heartworm & tick-disease prevention and routine check-ups
- Positive reinforcement training to encourage desirable behavior and habits
- Elective reproductive surgeries (spay or neuter) for pets not intended as breeding stock or show animals
- Regular home dental care
- Regular grooming to maintain your pet's coat at it's current stage



STAGE 3: Mature Adult

(2-8 years) – Cats are fully grown. Regular dental cleanings are essential in this stage to prevent periodontal disease.

- Bi-annual physical exam
- Regular grooming to maintain a healthy coat
- Regular exercise to promote good body conditioning
- Flea prevention, routine check-ups, and booster vaccinations
- Screening for common conditions in aging pets
- Good quality maintenance diet to help avoid health risks
- Regular home dental care
- Professional dental care as needed



STAGE 4: Senior Adult

(11 years and up) – Cats become less active and spend more time sleeping. Regular veterinary check-ups and early detection diagnostic tests are crucial.

- Bi-annual physical exam
- Vaccinations up to date
- Flea & tick-disease prevention and routine check-ups
- Screening for common conditions in the older pet
- Gradual adjustment to diet appropriate for senior animals
- Interactive play to boost mental stimulation

