

Top ten signs of Senior Cat behavior and health problems

10. Sleeping more, **not moving off the couch or perches to greet you**. This may be low level pain from arthritis.
9. **Your cat does not greet you or seem interested in play- Cognitive** Dysfunction, or hearing and vision problems may be at hand.
8. **Hissing as you pet or reach for your cat**. Mild pain is often the culprit.
7. **Missing the litter box**. Arthritis, weak back legs or Cognitive Dysfunction, or housemate aggression make it difficult to get “in the box.” Make a low entry box that is easy to find.
6. **Meowing at night**. Thyroid problems, and Cognitive Dysfunction can upset sleep/ wake cycles.
5. **Your cat is swatting at the younger cats when they want to play**. Mild pain and rambunctious younger cats create grumpy older cats. You play with your younger cats and be sure you have addressed any pain problems in your older cat!
4. **Matted fur, less grooming**. Teeth, hyperthyroidism, and anxiety may be the cause.
3. **Increase eating, stealing food**, and swatting at the other cats to stay away from the food. Diabetes, hyperthyroidism, and digestion problems can lead to increased appetite and food guarding.
2. **Suddenly startles when touched**. Your cat is going deaf or blind or may have pain. Be sure to clap your hands or make a noise before you touch them to avoid startling them.
1. **Missing the perches, the bed or couch when they jump up**. This is an early sign of loss of muscle strength and is related to digestion problems, early kidney problems, arthritis, or heart disease. Get a check -up!

Behavior changes are related to health. For any of the above problems, schedule a check-up with a Low-Stress Veterinary Care clinic.

Take my Cat Behavior and Health at all ages to learn more at <https://www.drallyjfoote.com/shop/>.

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