

Diseases and Conditions That Require Particular Focus During Examination, by Life Stage

	Kitten (Birth up to 1 Year)	Young Adult (1–6 Years)	Mature Adult (7–10 Years)	Senior (>10 Years)
Diseases and conditions of relevance that require increased vigilance*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Genetic and congenital conditions ▶ Infectious diseases: parasitic, viral, retroviral, feline infectious peritonitis, upper respiratory infection, enteric ▶ Dermatophytosis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Feline bronchial disease ▶ Cardiomyopathy ▶ Chronic enteropathy ▶ FIC and urolithiasis ▶ Feline atopic dermatitis (non-flea, flea allergy dermatitis, non-food allergic dermatitis) ▶ Systemic fungal disease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Chronic enteropathies (GI lymphoma, inflammatory bowel disease) ▶ Chronic kidney disease ▶ Hyperthyroidism ▶ Diabetes mellitus ▶ Neoplasia ▶ Cognitive dysfunction syndrome ▶ Periodontal disease and tooth resorption^{21,22} ▶ DJD: osteoarthritis and spondylosis deformans²³ 	

*This is not intended to represent a comprehensive list.

The 2020 AAHA/AAFP Feline Lifestage Guidelines are available at aaha.org/felinelifestage.

These guidelines were prepared by a task force of experts convened by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) and the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP). This document is intended as a guideline only, not an AAHA or AAFP standard of care. These guidelines and recommendations should not be construed as dictating an exclusive protocol, course of treatment, or procedure. Variations in practice may be warranted based on the needs of the individual patient, resources, and limitations unique to each individual practice setting. Evidence-based support for specific recommendations has been cited whenever possible and appropriate. Other recommendations are based on practical clinical experience and a consensus of expert opinion. Further research is needed to document some of these recommendations. Because each case is different, veterinarians must base their decisions on the best available scientific evidence in conjunction with their own knowledge and experience.

