Senior Level 3 Cat Knowledge Study Guide

Major Diseases of Older cats

- \circ Arthritis
- Heart Failure
- Cancer
- o Hyperthyroidism
- Cataracts
- o Kidney Failure
- \circ Diabetes
- Constipation
- Dental Disease

Improving the Quality of Life of an Older Cat

- Feed a diet recommended by your veterinarian; individual older cats may need more fiber, lower protein, higher fat, reduced salt or reduced calories.
- Keep the cat's environment as quiet, stable and stress free as possible
- Increase the number of litter boxes available around the home and decrease the height of the sides of the litter box
- Keep your aged cat inside where it is safest and do not force it to travel in a car any more than absolutely necessary.
- Do Not get a new kitten for your elderly cat to "play with". Older cats find kittens to be very stressful.
- Groom your cat regularly. Many older cats stop grooming them selves well and can become matted.
- Discuss your elderly cat's needs and care with your veterinarian

Stress and Calming Behaviors

- When cats are stressed or fearful, they show their emotions using body language and vocalizations.
- Signs of a stressed or fearful cat
 - Sleeping more than usual Acting unusually quiet
 - Dilated Pupils Eyes star at object
 - Whiskers maybe clumped together, and lay close to the face or point backwards
 - Clinging to a person, object or another pet
 - Body crouched or tense Excessive shedding
 - Acting Nervous, restless or irritated
 - Tail is bristled and/or wags back and forth
 - Salivating
 - Vocalizations could include several different sounds, hissing, spitting or screaming

Yawning

- Calming signals
 - Eyes partially closed
 - Ears twitching back and forth Grooming their coats
 - Looking away
 - Licking their lips or paws
- Turning away and slowly leaving Licking other cats or objects
- Switching their tails
- Constricting their claw

Vocabulary words:

Abscess- A localized collection of pus anywhere in the body

Agouti – the sandy color found between the black stripes of a tabby

Albino – Lack of the pigment melanin which causes white fur and pink eyes.

Cardiology – the study of the heart and its diseases and treatments

Cataracts – Changes in the lens of the eye that make light unable to go through the lens, reducing the animals ability to see.

Color points – The color markings on the face (mask), ears, tail, legs and paws, being a distinctive color different from the rest of the coat, which is a lighter shade.

Dermatitis – An inflammation of the skin

Diabetes – Lack of production in insulin by the pancreas which causes cells to be unable to use sugar. **Elizabethan collar** – A cardboard or plastic funnel fitted over head to prevent an animal from interfering with wounds or bandages on its body.

Estrous – the entire reproductive cycle, lasts 14-21 days in cats

Feral – a once domesticated cat or the descendants of a once domesticated cat now living in the wild state

Genes – Units of heredity that control the growth, development, function and physical characteristics of the cat.

Heterozygous – having two different alleles received from each parent for a particular trait (Aa)

Homozygous – Having an identical pair of alleles for a particular trait (AA/aa)

Host – An animal upon which a parasite lives.

Intact – The reproductive ability of an animal has not been altered.

Immune system – an animal's infection-fighting disease preventing, health-maintaining system which involves special infection fighting cells.

Mentor – Someone who guides, helps, demonstrates or otherwise helps someone else.

Neurology - the study of the nervous system and its diseases and treatments.

Pathogen – Organism capable of producing disease

Pedigree – a record of ancestry showing a cat's family tree over several generations.

Queen – go into labor; deliver kittens; give birth to kittens; mother cat.

Recessive gene – A gene whose characteristics are over ridden by a dominant gene in each pairing of chromosomes, so the characteristic is not evident in the resulting offspring.

Tortoiseshell – coat color resulting from linkage of dominant and recessive orange genes, both carried by female chromosome. Tortoiseshell cats are usually female.

Zoonosis – disease that can be passed between animals and humans.

Other things to know:

- Cat to people Diseases Page 9
- Body systems Page 7
- Cat Birds and Bees page 11
- Showmanship Judging Tips Page 19
- Community Law Page 21
- Cat Characteristics Page 15
- Feral Cat Page 23
- General Material from Level 1 and Level 2 Project Books

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