

**Table 4.16. Daily energy requirement (DER) for breeding male and female cats.<sup>a</sup>**

BW (lb)	Daily kcal	BW (lb)	Daily kcal	BW (lb)	Daily kcal	BW (lb)	Daily kcal
1	62	7	267	13	425	19	564
2	104	8	295	14	449	20	586
3	141	9	322	15	473	21	608
4	175	10	349	16	496	22	630
5	207	11	374	17	519	23	651
6	238	12	400	18	542	24	672

BW, body weight.

<sup>a</sup>DER =  $1.6 \times$  RER (resting energy requirement).

**Table 4.17. Daily energy requirement (DER) for weight loss in cats.<sup>a</sup>**

BW (lb)	Daily kcal	BW (lb)	Daily kcal	BW (lb)	Daily kcal	BW (lb)	Daily kcal
1	39	7	167	13	265	19	353
2	65	8	184	14	280	20	366
3	88	9	201	15	295	21	380
4	110	10	218	16	310	22	394
5	130	11	234	17	324	23	407
6	149	12	250	18	339	24	420

BW, body weight.

<sup>a</sup>DER =  $1.0 \times$  RER (resting energy requirement).

## ■ Weight Loss

For weight loss to occur, energy expenditure must be greater than the energy intake. The daily requirements for adult cats that need to lose weight can be found in Table 4.17. The daily energy requirement for adult cats that need to lose weight is calculated by the formula  $DER = 1.0 \times RER$ .

## ■ Growth

Growing kittens require more daily energy than do adult cats to support bone, muscle, and tissue growth. Kittens up to 4 months of age have the highest energy requirement, as a considerable amount of growth is occurring during this period. The daily energy require-

ment for kittens up to 4 months of age is calculated by the formula  $DER = 4 \times RER$ . As kittens get older, the rate of growth slows, and the daily energy requirement starts to decrease. The daily energy requirement for kittens 4–5 months of age is calculated by the formula  $DER = 3 \times RER$ . Growth continues until about 12 months of age, but at a slower rate. The daily energy requirement for kittens 6–8 months of age is calculated by the formula  $DER = 2.5 \times RER$ , and the requirement for kittens 9–12 months of age is calculated by the formula  $DER = 2 \times RER$ . The daily energy requirements for kittens up to 4 months of age, 4–5 months of age, 6–8 months of age, and 9–12 months of age can be found in Tables 4.18, 4.19, 4.20, and 4.21, respectively.

**Table 4.18. Daily energy requirement (DER) for kittens up to 4 months of age.<sup>a</sup>**

BW (lb)	Daily kcal	BW (lb)	Daily kcal	BW (lb)	Daily kcal	BW (lb)	Daily kcal
1	155	7	667	13	1061	19	1411
2	261	8	737	14	1122	20	1466
3	353	9	805	15	1181	21	1521
4	438	10	872	16	1240	22	1575
5	518	11	936	17	1298	23	1628
6	594	12	999	18	1355	24	1681

BW, body weight.

<sup>a</sup>DER =  $4 \times RER$  (resting energy requirement).

**Table 4.19. Daily energy requirement (DER) for kittens 4–5 months of age.<sup>a</sup>**

BW (lb)	Daily kcal	BW (lb)	Daily kcal	BW (lb)	Daily kcal	BW (lb)	Daily kcal
1	116	7	500	13	796	19	1058
2	196	8	553	14	841	20	1099
3	265	9	604	15	886	21	1140
4	329	10	654	16	930	22	1181
5	389	11	702	17	973	23	1221
6	446	12	750	18	1016	24	1261

BW, body weight.

<sup>a</sup>DER =  $3 \times RER$  (resting energy requirement).

**Table 4.20. Daily energy requirement (DER) for kittens 6–8 months of age.<sup>a</sup>**

BW (lb)	Daily kcal	BW (lb)	Daily kcal	BW (lb)	Daily kcal	BW (lb)	Daily kcal
1	97	7	417	13	663	19	882
2	163	8	461	14	701	20	916
3	221	9	503	15	738	21	950
4	274	10	545	16	775	22	984
5	324	11	585	17	811	23	1017
6	371	12	625	18	847	24	1050

BW, body weight.

<sup>a</sup>DER = 2.5 × RER (resting energy requirement).

**Table 4.21. Daily energy requirement (DER) for kittens 9–12 months of age.<sup>a</sup>**

BW (lb)	Daily kcal	BW (lb)	Daily kcal	BW (lb)	Daily kcal	BW (lb)	Daily kcal
1	78	7	334	13	531	19	705
2	130	8	367	14	561	20	733
3	177	9	403	15	591	21	760
4	219	10	436	16	620	22	787
5	259	11	468	17	649	23	814
6	297	12	500	18	677	24	840

BW, body weight.

<sup>a</sup>DER = 2 × RER (resting energy requirement).

### ■ Senior Cats

It can be difficult to determine the energy needs of the senior cat. Cats are considered to be senior when they have reached half their life expectancy; thus, most are considered to be senior at about 7 years of age. The daily energy requirement of a senior cat is dependent on body condition, activity level, reproductive status, and the presence of underlying medical conditions. Senior cats are prone to obesity and thus require a lower daily energy requirement. As cats get very old, the daily energy requirement is actually higher because of a decrease in the ability to digest nutrients and underlying medical conditions.

For the adult senior cat over 7–11 years of age, the daily energy requirement should be decreased to avoid the occurrence of obesity.