

Table 4.22. Daily energy requirement (DER) for senior cats 7–11 years of age.^a

BW (lb)	Daily kcal	BW (lb)	Daily kcal	BW (lb)	Daily kcal	BW (lb)	Daily kcal
1	43	7	183	13	292	19	388
2	72	8	203	14	309	20	403
3	97	9	221	15	325	21	418
4	121	10	240	16	341	22	433
5	143	11	257	17	357	23	448
6	163	12	275	18	373	24	462

BW, body weight.

^aDER = 1.1 × RER (resting energy requirement).

Table 4.23. Daily energy requirement (DER) for senior cats over 11 years of age.^a

BW (lb)	Daily kcal	BW (lb)	Daily kcal	BW (lb)	Daily kcal	BW (lb)	Daily kcal
1	54	7	233	13	371	19	494
2	91	8	258	14	393	20	513
3	124	9	282	15	414	21	532
4	153	10	305	16	434	22	551
5	181	11	328	17	454	23	570
6	208	12	350	18	474	24	588

BW, body weight.

^aDER = 1.4 × RER (resting energy requirement).

The daily energy requirement in this case is calculated by the formula $DER = 1.1 \times RER$ and can be found in Table 4.22. For senior cats over 12 years of age, the daily energy requirement is calculated by the formula $DER = 1.4 \times RER$ and is found in Table 4.23. Senior cats must be monitored closely for body weight and body condition, with adjustment of daily energy intake as needed.

■ Gestation

Daily energy needs increase during gestation, and those needs are dependent on the prior nutritional status of the female and the number of fetuses she is carrying. During gestation, the daily energy requirement increases gradually; thus, there should be a gradual increase in

Table 4.24. Daily energy requirement (DER) for cats in the final weeks of gestation.^a

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.

^aDER = 2 × RER (resting energy requirement).

Table 4.25. Daily energy requirement (DER) for cats during the first 4 weeks of lactation.^a

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.

^aDER = 4 × RER (resting energy requirement).

the amount of energy fed daily throughout gestation. By the final weeks of gestation, the daily energy requirement is calculated by the formula DER = 2 × RER. Daily energy requirements for late gestation in cats are found in Table 4.24.

■ Lactation

Milk production places the largest nutritional demands on the queen. She must metabolize very large amounts of nutrients in order to produce sufficient milk to support the growth of her kittens. Peak milk production occurs when the kittens are 4–5 weeks of age, right before they are weaned. The daily energy requirement for lactation for queens in the first 4 weeks of lactation is calculated by the formula DER = 4 × RER. The daily energy requirement for queens lactating for

Table 4.26. Daily energy requirement (DER) for cats lactating for longer than 4 weeks.^a

BW (lb)	Daily kcal	BW (lb)	Daily kcal	BW (lb)	Daily kcal	BW (lb)	Daily kcal
1	233	7	1001	13	1592	19	2116
2	391	8	1106	14	1683	20	2199
3	530	9	1208	15	1772	21	2281
4	656	10	1307	16	1860	22	2362
5	777	11	1404	17	1947	23	2442
6	891	12	1499	18	2032	24	2521

BW, body weight.

^aDER = $6 \times$ RER (resting energy requirement).

more than 4 weeks is calculated by the formula $DER = 6 \times RER$. Daily energy requirements for cats during lactation are found in Tables 4.25 and 4.26.

Additional Reading

Case LP, Carey DP, Hirakawa DA, Daristotle L. 2000. Energy balance. In *Canine and Feline Nutrition: A Resource for Companion Animal Professionals*, 2nd edition. Case LP, Carey DP, Hirakawa DA, Daristotle L (Eds.). Mosby, St. Louis, pp. 75–88.

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