

Table 4.20. Daily energy requirement (DER) for kittens 6–8 months of age.^a

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.

^aDER = 2.5 × RER (resting energy requirement).

Table 4.21. Daily energy requirement (DER) for kittens 9–12 months of age.^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).

■ 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.

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