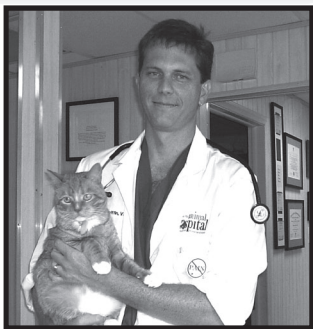


VETERINARY

Q: Dear Dr. Griffin, Recently I've noticed that I have to fill the water bowl and clean out the litter more frequently for my 10 year old cat, Rufus. Should I be concerned that he is drinking and urinating more often or this just a normal sign of aging?



William Griffin , VMD

Concerned Pet Owner

A: Dear Concerned Pet Owner, Unfortunately what you are describing is not a normal sign of aging and is something to be concerned about. Increased drinking and frequent urination could be a sign of an underlying disease like a urinary track infection, diabetes, hyperthyroidism or kidney disease. It is important that you have Rufus examined by a veterinarian to determine the specific cause of his condition. You can expect that your veterinarian will perform certain diagnostic procedures such as blood and urine tests and in some cases abdominal ultrasound and blood pressure measurement. He or she will also ask if you have noticed any other changes in Rufus' behavior such as increased appetite or weight loss so these are other subtle signs to be looking for.

Early intervention and treatment of any of these diseases will generally result in a more favorable prognosis and will certainly have Rufus feeling better sooner. As an attentive pet parent, you have done a great job paying attention to the small changes in behavior that can signify an underlying problem. The better the information you are able to provide the better able your veterinarian will be to diagnosis and treat Rufus.

Best of luck to you and Rufus!

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