

Urinating Frequently (Polyuria) Can Be a Sign of Serious Disease in Pets

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

Q. If my pet urinates frequently, is it cause for alarm?

A. There are many reasons a dog or cat may urinate more than normal. The medical term for this condition is 'polyuria.' The most common causes of polyuria include:



- Diabetes mellitus (sugar diabetes)
- [Cushing's Disease \(hyperadrenocorticism\)](#)
- Pyometra (uterine infection)
- [Hyperthyroidism](#)
- Diabetes insipidus (results from an abnormality of the hypothalamus and/or pituitary gland)
- Liver failure
- Kidney failure or infection
- Psychogenic polydipsia (compulsive water drinking)
- [Addison's disease \(hypoadrenocorticism\)](#)
- Hypercalcemia (high level of calcium in the blood)
- Hypokalemia (low level of potassium in the blood)
- Medications: e.g., [Lasix \(furosemide\)](#), or [glucocorticoids](#), such as prednisone
- High-salt diets

Because of the seriousness of some of these conditions, a dog or cat urinating and/or drinking more than normal should be seen by a veterinarian as soon as possible.