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Be Aware of Your Senior Cat's Litter Box Issues

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Elderly or arthritic cats can find it difficult to get in and out of litter boxes, while older cats may lack bladder control. Older cats who are diabetic or in renal failure may have accidents because of their increased water intake. They can have constipation, which can cause box avoidance.

Elderly felines with hearing loss may sleep more soundly and might not wake in time to get to the box to relieve their full bladders. Some senior cats can also suffer from age-related cognitive dysfunction, which makes them so disoriented they can no longer find the litter box.

Get your cat checked out by your vet. ANY change in behavior should be brought to the vet's attention.

Pam Johnson-Bennett, CABC, is a certified cat behavior consultant and author of seven best-selling books. Her website is www.catbehaviorassociates.com