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A Tough Day for Nicky

Sat, 2012-04-14 11:16 — Robin Olson

AUTHOR'S NOTE: The intention of this post is to help educate, not sensationalize an event that was personally very disturbing to me. I've given it a lot of thought and I feel it could help others if I share what happened yesterday to our cat, Nicky. The video, below, shows puddles of urine that are very bloody. In fact, it looks more like puddles of blood. If this is disturbing to you, PLEASE do not watch the video. There is also a single photo of a second area of urine, below, as well.

It's been very challenging to take care of Nicky since we found out he has renal disease, a mass on his spleen (*not cancer*), and possibly, lymphoma. Nicky gets sub q (*under the skin*) fluids every other day. We monitor that he's eating well, but he's losing weight. **He frequently urinates a great deal of urine, outside the litter pan.** We've studied his habits, made certain the pans were spotlessly clean and had to stand "guard" next to him while he urinates in case he feels stressed. We've worked on keeping the stress down. It wasn't possible with kittens running around, but now that Jakey and Teddy are adopted, things are fairly quiet.



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. Nicky a few months ago.

Thursday the 12th Nicky peed on one of the rugs. I caught him doing it. As usual, there was a huge puddle to clean up. There was nothing unusual about it. I battle with myself not to get angry, to just clean it up and move on. It's very difficult to watch my belongings and my home get ruined, but I know I'm not alone and that so many other people have far worse situations.

Friday the 13th, I was doing my usual routine of sitting with April and the kittens, getting mama fed, cleaning up the litter pan in her room and so on. Everyone was doing fine. Sam had to step out to run an errand. I said goodbye to him through the closed door of the foster room.

A few minutes later, I heard Bobette get into it with another cat. **I've been allowing her the option to come out of her room, hoping she would get acclimated to my cats so I could use her room to foster more kittens.** So far the experiment isn't going very well and she screeches at the other cats, then chase them away. So far she is not physical with them. The altercations last a second, tops. I finished up with April and got out of the room to see what had happened.

I went to Bobette's room. She was sitting on the bed. She looked fine. I walked down the hallway into my bedroom. I didn't see any cats. I thought I should take a shower and get ready for the day. **I walked to the doorway of the bathroom and something caught my eye. There was a puddle of what I thought was blood on the floor.**



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. *The first sign of trouble.*

I looked at it closely, then cleaned it up. **It didn't smell like urine, but I know Petunia will some times mark near that spot. I thought it was her since she's had crystals in her urine in the past, but how was I going to figure out which of eight cats was doing this?** I scanned the floor near the first spot and I saw small drops of bloody urine. There's only one cat who would drop urine and that was Nicky. **Nicky had "PU" surgery 11 years ago to remove his penis because he was getting blocked up so often. I didn't know about the importance of removing grain from a cat's diet at the time and if I did, we could have cured him without spending \$8,000.00 to have surgery done. After the surgery we were told that Nicky may have some incontinence issues.** I've never seen much from him, but seeing these drops made me realize it had to be him.

For some reason, I looked on the bed. We have a PawsOff® cover on it, but it wasn't covering next to my pillow, which was exactly where **I found a small puddle of bloody urine. HE PEED ON THE BED!!!!!!**

I ripped the sheets off the bed and put them into the laundry, then continued my search for both Nicky and for more puddles.

©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. *Warning: more blood, also, you can hear me crying so please be advised.*

There were two bloody puddles on the landing between the first and second floors. There were droplets on the floor headed towards the bathroom. There was a puddle next to the dishwasher. **I saw Nicky, he was straining on the carpet. I grabbed him and tossed him into the litter pan, blocking his escape.** I was freaked out. I was angry. I knew I shouldn't be either, but I couldn't help it. Nicky ran out of the litter pan and started straining again. I grabbed him and tossed him into the downstairs bathroom and shut the door. At least if he peed on the floor it was tile and I could clean it up. I needed a few minutes to calm down and get things clean.

Then I realized my phone must have rung during all the commotion. There was a voicemail. It was Sam. **He got a speeding ticket on the way to the Apple Store where he was going to try to get his dead PowerBook sent out for service!** Great! I called him back, but only got his voicemail. I told him what was going on with Nicky. I called the Vet and told them I was pretty sure it was Nicky and they gave me an appointment for 12:30pm



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. Nicky and Sam waiting for Dr. Larry.

Sam called back and told me Nicky had been vomiting earlier that morning. This not good. Clearly something is terribly wrong. Nicky was furiously scratching at the door to be let out. I opened the door.

What I saw took my breath away. The bathroom looked like a scene out of a horror movie. There were puddles of bloody urine scattered all over the room, on the counter, and the floor.

Nicky ran out of the room and vanished. I made myself shoot some video of it because I wanted Dr Larry to see it later, but I was so upset I could barely get any footage. **I was certain that this was a sign that Nicky was going to die and soon. I thought that perhaps something had ruptured inside him or that had had a mass in his bladder on top of everything else.**

I called Dr. Larry's office and Super-Deb answered the phone. Deb is my comfort, my friend. She always has a way to help me calm down and take a breath, **but Super-Deb just lost her most dear cat in the world, Pete Puma, to lymphoma. Pete was a big orange Maine Coon. He lived through so many challenges it was amazing he lived into his teens. Here was Debbie, being her usual calm self and I am bawling my head off.** I told her I had an emergency and that we couldn't wait until 12:30 to come in and that I was bringing Nicky in NOW. Deb was great and said to come in and they would fit us in. I reached Sam and told him what was going on. He would meet me at the Vet. **I just had to FIND Nicky, pack him up and go...oh and put some clothes on! I was still in my jammies.**

Nicky was hiding in the closet. Not a good sign. I managed to pack him up and get us in the car fairly quickly, but once I got on the road, it was another nightmare. **I didn't get more than 200 yards out of my driveway when I got stuck behind a driver going 30 mph in a 40 mph zone. I waited for the passing zone to come up and I shot past him, cursing the whole way. I didn't get very far because the traffic came to a dead stop. It was 10:30am! What was going on?** A semi-truck got STUCK making a turn onto the state road, so the traffic was limping along. It was really only moving because the cars ahead of me were turning around and going the other direction.

I got onto a back road, then got stuck, again behind a driver crawling at abnormally low speed. If they were doing the speed limit I would have just followed along, but I couldn't tolerate these slow drivers. Nicky was crying. I smelled urine. I thought he could be dying. I passed a few cars and just did what I needed to do. I finally got to the Vet. They told us to wait a few minutes. **Sam was there already. We both looked pale and miserable. I started to cry again, the sound of it mingled with Nicky's own cries.**



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. This is what a cat in pain looks like. If Nicky was hunched over with his front paws tucked under him it would be called "meatloafing" which is another sign a cat's in pain.

Dr. Larry was in the middle of a difficult case regarding a dog. He had his partner take over so he could see Nicky, who he calls; "my boy." Dr. Larry loves Nicky and would do anything for us. We're very lucky to have such a caring Vet.

Nicky's back end was bloody. They checked to make sure Bobette hadn't bitten him in the butt-which we were all hoping was the case. He had no visible injury so they took him in the back and did blood work and x-rays. We were sent home to wait.

Around 3pm we got the call to come get Nicky. **X-rays did not show any mass. The ultrasound guy-Dr Kearns, was not available to come in, but from looking at Nicky's blood work it was clear something was going on. His white blood count was very high.** His kidney function, as expected was not great, but not terrible. Nicky has lost over a pound in a month. With only those few things to go on and that Dr. Larry felt nothing on the physical exam, they decided to get Nick on antibiotics. They also gave him [Reglan](#) ⁽²⁾ to keep him from vomiting and [Buprenex](#) ⁽³⁾ (now that I look up a link for this medication, I see it should not be given to cats with kidney disease!!!!) to make him more comfortable.

We were to wait and see how he does over the next few days.

It's Saturday the 14th. Nicky didn't eat well and paced a bit. As soon as my head hit the pillow last night, he started to cry. I called to him and he came up to bed and was fairly quiet. **This morning I haven't found any urine puddles, but I'm not sure Nicky has peed. He did vomit and he may be having problems with the antibiotics or the buprenex or both. Was this a simple urinary tract infection or is something else going on?**

Looking back on it, I believe the urinating out of the box may have been a brewing infection. We were so locked onto the fact that his kidneys are losing function that we assumed that was the case. Perhaps we had two issues going on that needed to be handled differently?

At this point only time will tell if we're treating Nicky appropriately. We'll keep things quiet and hope Nicky improves or we may find out we missed something (again). For now, Nicky's home and that's what counts.

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Comments

Sat, 2012-04-14 12:47 — Tereza and Larry (not verified)

Thanks for sharing ^[17]

Firstly, sending love and light to you, Nicky, Sam, and all the Olsen critters. Sharing this, Robin, is helpful and informative. I know it was hard for you to write this, but it shows your love for cats and cat parents everywhere. Even though you're going through hell, you want to be sure that the information you have can be used to help other cats. That's love, pure and simple, for cats.

So sorry you guys are going through this.

Love,

T

Sat, 2012-04-14 13:07 — [Daisy the Curly Cat \(not verified\)](#) ^[18]

I'm very sorry ^[19]

I'm so sorry that Nicky is having such a tough time, and when I heard you crying on the video, I almost started crying, too. Hope he will be better soon.

Sat, 2012-04-14 15:03 — [Marilia \(not verified\)](#) ^[20]

Tks ^[21]

Great post!!!! Information never is enough!

Sat, 2012-04-14 16:11 — [LizzieMade \(not verified\)](#) ^[22]

Poor Nicky, Poor Robin, Poor Sam! ^[23]

I'm so sorry to read that Nicky is sick, especially with all that's been going on with you and all the cats... It's never quiet, I guess, when you have a house full of cats, but still, it's so awful when one of your pets is ill and you fear he is dying. My heart went out to you as I read that.

I hope so much that this treatment works quickly and effectively, so that Nicky is comfortable again very soon.

I'll be thinking about you all!

Sat, 2012-04-14 16:54 — [Barbara UK \(not verified\)](#)

Poor Nicky, Poor You ^[24]

Robin I cried too when I heard you crying in the video and then again when I saw the Nicky-In-Pain photo. What a frightening experience for you to find all that blood. My last cat had kidney disease and bouts of cystitis would send her to her litter tray every few minutes where she would strain so hard she would lie almost flat in there. There would be blood spots after this but nothing like Nicky - its very watery blood isn't it? You've done all you can for now so let's hope the antibiotics do the trick although I don't like the sound of the Buprenex not being advised for cats with kidney disease. I am sending my love and best wishes to Nicky for a good recovery.

Sun, 2012-04-15 00:13 — [JA macT \(not verified\)](#)

Nicky ^[25]

Hi Robin - What a trial, although I'm so glad it turned out Nicky doesn't have any masses or whatnot! I'm not surprised with the kidney issues that you were thinking the peeing out of the box was related, but CRF doesn't usually involve peeing outside of the box. I know you know this, but the first thing to rule out with box issues are things like UTIs. I'm a bit concerend that Nicky is getting sub-q's every other day. That sounds like a lot, unless you are giving him pretty small amounts each time. Being overhydrated might possibly account for some box issues, as it sounds like his pee system has been "compromised" by surgery in the past!

Check the amount of sub-q's that are recommended on Tanya's site, OK? I had to fight w/ my vet to cut back on Bander's fluids, but too much is as bad as too little.

Also, buprenorphine is OK for cats with CRF. It's effectiveness can wear off with time, so it's not for regular use, but it won't hurt his kidneys. Bander never had vomiting issues with it, so I would suspect the anti-biotic. Good luck with Nicky, and I hope this clears up asap!

J~

Sun, 2012-04-15 09:11 — [Robin Olson](#) ^[26]

We'll definitely check this out ^[27]

Thank you J! Yes, we knew that CRF wouldn't cause the urination out of the box but Nicky's been doing it since before he was diagnosed so we thought it was related..stupid! Now we know it's not. He's getting 150 cc..not every other day..sorry it's M, W, F..so sort of every other day...I will ask Sam to check with our vet. Nicky was almost 20 pounds but has lost a lot and is down to 18 7oz so maybe we need to back off a bit..thank you for your helpful advice.

Mon, 2012-04-16 13:32 — [Romeothecat \(not verified\)](#) ^[28]

Nicky ^[29]

I hope you feel better buddy!!

Love, Romeo <3

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