

IS YOUR CAT URINATING ALL OVER YOUR HOME?

FELINE LOWER URINARY TRACT DISEASE (FLUTD)

The lower urinary tract consists of the urinary bladder and urethra. Diseases of the lower urinary tract result in inflammation and pain, no matter what the underlying cause. The problem can lead to an emergency and become fatal if the pet is unable to urinate.

Owners usually observe any one or all of the following symptoms of lower urinary tract disease:



1. Blood in the urine
2. Urinating in inappropriate places. Often a pet that was previously litter box trained will begin urinating in unusual places.
3. Straining or frequent attempts to urinate. The cat may be sitting in the litter box for a long period of time with little or no urine being expelled or straining and the owner confusing this with constipation.

This last point is very important since the cat will die if adequate quantities of urine cannot be expelled from the body. If no urine is being expelled, the pet must be seen by a veterinarian immediately.

This is an emergency!

There are many different causes for the lower urinary tract pain and inflammation, which cause the above clinical signs. They may include any of the ones listed below:

1. bacterial or viral infection
2. bladder stones
3. trauma
4. congenital abnormalities
5. cancer
6. neurological disorders
7. idiopathic FLUTD (**iFLUTD**)**



Diagnostic tests leading to the conclusion of **idiopathic FLUTD may include urinalysis, blood work and/or radiographs.

These pets seem to be more sensitive to stress. Stress could include change in owner's schedule, new pet, new baby, no window to look out of, not enough toys, and lack of scratching posts. Providing a soft kitty bed to curl up in, can be helpful in reducing stress.

Available to your pet are natural pheromones we can introduce into the environment and/or medications to help reduce stress and control pain. Increased water consumption is an important part of your pets treatment. We may advise can food among other things.

A website that may be helpful is the Indoor Cat Initiative at <http://www.vet.ohio-state.edu/indoorcat.htm>.

This disease has caused the death and abandonment of many cats, and researchers are still trying to understand the causes. Stay in close contact with your veterinarian as changes in treatment will likely be required.