

Urinary Tract Infections

Urinary tract infections are a commonly seen problem in veterinary clinics. The most frequently noticed signs at home are blood in the urine, urinating in inappropriate places, straining to urinate, and frequent urination.

Factors that put an animal at risk for urinary tract infections include bladder crystals and/or stones, structural abnormalities of the urinary tract, diabetes, use of certain medications, urinary incontinence, and urine retention. Some types of bladder stones can be seen on x-rays, so if bladder stones are suspected, this may be a part of our diagnostic workup.

Initial treatment typically involves a few days of anti-inflammatory/pain medication and at least 2-3 weeks of antibiotics. It is very important to finish the entire prescription of antibiotics as directed, even after symptoms resolve. Failure to do so may lead to antibiotic resistance and recurrent infections.

Treatment may also require a food change if your pet has crystals and/or stones. The new prescription diet will include an ingredient that will dissolve the existing crystals and stones as well as prevent formation of them in the future. This food change will be required for life to prevent future crystals, stones, and bladder infections.

Your vet will likely request that you bring a urine sample in each week after starting treatment. This is to ensure that we have chosen an effective antibiotic and we are making progress in resolving the infection.

If the initial treatment does not work on the infection, we may send in a sample to be cultured. This will identify the bacteria that are causing the infection, and testing can be done to determine which antibiotics will be best for treatment.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the clinic at 319-837-6511. Thank you for bringing your pet to us for medical care!