

# FLUTD



## **What is Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease (FLUTD)?**

Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease (FLUTD) is a health problem that affects the bladder and urethra (the tube through which urine leaves the body) of cats. It is a term used to describe a group of conditions that can cause discomfort, pain, and other symptoms in the lower urinary tract of cats.

In some cases, the urethra in male cats (in particular) can become blocked as a result of urinary crystals, which can be a life-threatening emergency that requires immediate veterinary attention. If a male cat is not urinating at all and has abdominal pain, it may be blocked and needs to be taken to a vet as soon as possible.

## **What are the symptoms of FLUTD?**

The more common symptoms of FLUTD include:

- Straining to urinate
- Very small puddles of urine
- Frequent trips to the litter box (e.g. several trips in an hour or 4+ times a day)
- Blood in the urine
- Crying or yowling while urinating
- Urinating outside of the litter box (often a symptom of other issues)

***If your foster animal has any of these symptoms, contact the AWL NSW vet clinic (Kemps Creek carers only) or your branch Welfare Officer (AWL NSW branch carers only).***

## **What causes FLUTD in cats?**

The exact cause of FLUTD is not known, but may be the result of stress, bladder stones, urinary tract infections, bladder inflammation and/or bladder tumours.

## **How is FLUTD diagnosed?**

A veterinarian will generally test the cat's urine to help with a diagnosis. Other tests such as an X-ray or ultrasound may also be performed.

## **How is FLUTD prevented and treated?**

The prevention and treatment for FLUTD is generally the same but in severe cases, surgery may be necessary to remove bladder stones or other obstructions.

If a cat has a history of FLUTD, it is extremely important to:

- Feed a special urinary care diet (and encourage wet food over dry food – if possible only feed the special wet food, but if the cat is extremely fussy, normal wet food is the next best option)
- Encouraging water intake. Try turning on taps and/or having water fountains
- Ensuring the cat is in a stress-free environment. In some cases, medication is provided to reduce stress.
- Ensure the cat does not become overweight
- Ensure the cat gets regular exercise