

VETERINARY SURGEONS

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THE STRAVEN ROAD VETERINARY CENTRE (LTD)

Newsletter – SUMMER 2016/17 Issue 34

CLINIC NEWS

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter. We hope everyone had a safe and merry Christmas and we wish you all a fantastic 2017.

We had Sarah's wedding to Jeremy in November, it was a lovely day and the weather was great that day. Sarah looked gorgeous in her dress.

SEASONAL UPDATE - Summer

Sun and hot days

Make sure all your pets and you stay sun smart over these hot days we are having. This means sun screen for all areas where you can see skin through the coat. Use animal sunscreen for your pets not human sunscreen as it is not effective. It also means not walking your dogs in the heat of the day. Consider an early start or walking them late in the evening. Finally never leave your pets in cars no matter how short the time you will be away from the car or how much ventilation you provide. Your pets can die within minutes in hot cars.

FLUTD - Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease

Article by Eve Allely

Bladder problems are a common reason for cats to be brought to us for help. They can be very distressing for both cat and owner, who usually notice some or all of the following clues:

- Excessive straining to urinate (easily confused with constipation however usually the back is more arched with constipation) with either urinary success or nothing produced

- Passing small amounts of urine frequently
- Urinating in unusual places (eg shower/basin/bath/floor)
- Discoloured urine (often blood tinged)
- Vocalisation/distress associated with attempts to urinate
- Licking genitals more frequently especially after attempting to urinate
- Possibly a reduction in appetite
- Possibly an increase in water consumption

The term FLUTD is really just a broad description for any of a number of possible conditions:

1 INTERSTITIAL CYSTITIS

This is the most common form of feline cystitis or bladder inflammation. It is a sterile process ie no bacteria involved, and in fact the biggest contributing cause is anxiety. The inflammation that occurs in the bladder wall is very painful in itself and this leads to further anxiety, perpetuating the problem.

2 URETHRAL OBSTRUCTION

Another common reason for presentation to us. The urethra (bladder outflow tube) in male cats is of quite narrow diameter. Obstruction to urine outflow in the urethra will cause serious distress and lead to urine retention in the bladder, ureters, kidneys and bloodstream, making for a seriously ill cat! Treatment is usually hospitalisation, fluid therapy, and urinary catheterisation under anaesthesia, quite an expensive process. The blockage is frequently caused by a "plug" of congealed mucous and/or accumulated microscopic urinary crystals. The other common cause of blockage is with a small urolith or bladder stone that has worked its way downstream. There are other unusual possibilities including urethral neoplasms (cancers), polyps and even foreign bodies (I have seen a grass seed in this location before!). Some cats have a problem with urethral spasms, which can in effect cause a functional obstruction. This is usually subsequent to urethral irritation after catheterisation for physical obstruction.

3 UROLITHIASIS



Caring Vets,
Healthy Pets

As mentioned, a possible reason for urethral obstruction but also can remain in the bladder as dense mineral structures. They originate from coalesced microscopic urinary crystals and develop slowly given certain urine conditions. Because of the time taken to form, these are generally more common in older cats.

4 BACTERIAL CYSTITIS

Not particularly common in cats as a type of FLUTD. More likely to occur in older patients or those that have been catheterised.

5 NEOPLASIA

Another word for cancer. Neoplasms are not common but can potentially grow in the bladder wall. Again more of a feature of older cats.

Preventative measures for the more common types of FLUTD revolve around stress reduction, appropriate diet and encouraging adequate water intake. Available to us now are an array of veterinary diets formulated to minimise crystal formation (and hence urethral plug and urolith development). Some also encourage extra water consumption and hence bladder "flushing". Others (notably the sachet or tinned options) have a high water content already for the same effect. This will reduce the chance of crystal formation also, and is a very important treatment/prevention for interstitial cystitis.

If you are interested in proactively avoiding FLUTD in your cat please don't hesitate to ask our staff, and we can point you in the right direction.

Am I in a suitable position to own a pet?

By Jamie, VN

As a Veterinary nurse and an animal lover I am a total advocate for pet ownership as they are great companions, but it has to be under the right circumstances. So we ask, please take into consideration the following before getting a pet, so they can live the life they deserve:

Time: The reality of pet ownership soon sets in when one realizes the great responsibilities involved in their care. One of these responsibilities is the time required for pets. This is especially the case for dogs as they are not happy if left alone for long periods of time. If you can't devote enough daily time to play and interact with your pet, including walking/exercise, do not get one that requires a lot of time. Another area you really have to be honest with yourself is your own ability and time required to train a pet. Many dogs have been abandoned because of ignorant owners who failed to properly train their dogs. Dog experts claim that there are no bad

dogs. Instead, there are bad dog owners who did not adequately provide the right training for their dogs. If you are a potential dog owner, make sure that you get proper dog obedience training, which means education for both yourself as well as your dog. Training also includes housetraining for dogs and cats etc.

Cost: Most pets can have significant health costs, especially if they get ill or injured. Talk to existing pet owners to find out what their average annual veterinary costs are. You don't want to be in a position where you can't afford the regular and/or unexpected vet costs for a pet. It is so unfortunate when animals have to suffer or pet owners have to give up their animals just because they can't afford the cost of pet care. If these innocent animals cannot get new homes, they are often euthanized as a result. Costs also include food, toys, babysitters or kennels/catteries if you go away, annual vaccinations, desexing, registration, microchipping, flea and worm treatments and so on.

Environment: You will need to carefully consider if you can provide suitable accommodation for your pet both now and well into the future. Are you allowed to keep pets at your current residence? Your home size and/or garden size are factors in determining your suitability as a pet owner for certain types of animals. If you're thinking about getting a dog - do you have a yard? Is it secure? If you don't have a yard, where will your dog be housed when you're not at home? If it is inside, where will the dog go to the toilet? Can you get home to let it outside every few hours? If you rent your property has your landlord given you written permission to have a dog or other pet? What will happen if you have to move?

Pet ownership is a wonderful experience in the right situation. If your situation isn't right now, wait until it is and make some plans to help make it right.

PROMOTIONS

There are no current promotions at this time but be sure keep an eye out for promotions coming in the new year

We would love to hear your feedback on our newsletter. We thank you for your custom and we look forward to seeing you again soon.



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