



Monroe Pet Press



Published Quarterly by the MONROE ANIMAL HOSPITAL
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2nd Digital Edition – September 2010

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Urinary Issues in Cats



One of the most common medical issues seen in our feline patients is straining to urinate or bloody urine. Treatment of this condition depends on cause and may include diet, medications, or changes in the environment.

Signs of urinary problems in cats can include straining to urinate, blood in urine, increased frequency of urination, or urinating outside the litterpan. In most cases, medical conditions are looked for first, and if tests are negative, then behavioral management is instituted.

It turns out that the age of the cat is tremendously relevant regarding which underlying causes are most likely. If we look at cats under ten years of age with lower urinary tract symptoms, here is what we find:

- 50% will not have a cause that can be determined despite extensive testing (meaning they have what is called idiopathic cystitis).
- 20% will have bladder stones (females have a slightly higher incidence).
- 1-5% will have a bladder infection

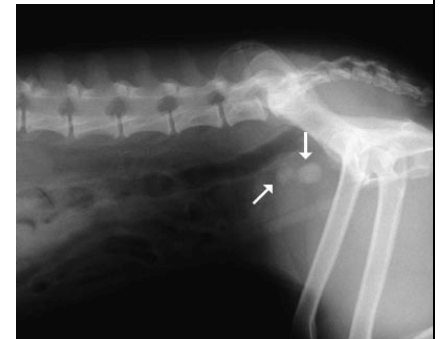
If we look at cats over 10 years of age then a different set of statistic are seen:

- 50% will have true urinary tract infections.
- 10% will have bladder stones.
- 17% will have both infection and bladder stones.
- 7% will have urethral blockage.
- 3% will have urinary tract cancer.

- 5% will not have a cause that can be determined despite extensive testing.
- 66% will be in some stage of kidney failure

Clearly age is important in determining how to approach a feline patient that is having urinary problems. Of special note is a male cat that is unable to pass urine or, is vocalizing while trying to urinate. This could be indicative of a urinary blockage, which is a life-threatening emergency. If this is seen, the cat should be seen by a veterinarian immediately. Hospitalization, urinary catheterization, intravenous fluids, and pain management is necessary to stabilize the patient and to prevent kidney damage or fatal build up of waste products and potassium.

In all cases of urinary issues a urinalysis should be performed. If a bladder infection is suspected, then a urine culture to determine bacteria presence, type and antibiotic treatment is often run. In cases with recurrence or in cases with long-standing signs an x-ray of the abdomen or abdominal ultrasound may be performed to check for bladder stones or growths.



Of special note is the case of idiopathic cystitis. This disease of unknown origin in cats is thought to occur due to stress or overly concentrated urine. Its symptoms may come and go periodically even without treatment. Medical management includes pain medications (anti-inflammatories, narcotics, or nerve pain modifiers), glucosamine supplementation, increasing moisture in the diet (through canned food, water additives, or watering devices), and stress reduction with pheromones such as Feliway. It is interesting that a similar syndrome has been described in human females.

. New Tool for Pain Management and Wound Healing

One of the newest treatments for pain management and wound healing in people is now available for use in pets as well. Ivivi Technologies makes an FDA cleared device that emits a targeted pulsed electromagnetic field (tPEMF). Called the Assisi portable, this non-invasive and non-pharmacologic therapy has no known side-effects and has been shown to reduce inflammation, decrease chronic pain due to disk issues and arthritis, and to aide in wound healing. It is also being investigated for the treatment of other medical conditions.

This device works by stimulating production of nitric oxide, a principal anti-inflammatory molecule. Nitric oxide reduces pain, improves blood flow, reduces edema, and further triggers downstream effects, including new blood vessel formation, tissue regeneration and then, ultimately, tissue remodeling..

The Assisi portable device is applied over the site where



treatment is desired twice daily for 15 minutes. One device is good for up to 90 treatments. The

device can also be applied over bandaged areas to aide in wound healing.

More information on this technology and its applications can be found online at www.assisianimalhealth.com.

Xylitol Toxicity in Dogs



One potential poison in the home that most people may not realize is potentially lethal to their pets is chewing gum. For health reasons in people, many gum brands are now flavored with a sugar substitute called xylitol. This product, which not only tastes sweet and reduces periodontal disease, may have far reaching health benefits in other areas of the human body. Xylitol may help with osteoporosis, prevention of ear and throat infections, and may reduce risk of endometriosis, uterine fibroids, and even breast cancer. Unfortunatley, this chemical is potentially fatal to dogs!

It doesn't take a lot of gum to potentially affect a canine patient. A typical stick of gum contains 0.3 to 0.4 grams of xylitol, which means that a 10 lb dog could be poisoned by as little as a stick and a half of gum.

Affects in dogs include very low blood sugar (hypoglycemia) and potentially liver damage or failure. This can result in weakness, coma, inability for blood to clot, hemorrhage and death.

Ideally, any patient that consumes xylitol should have vomiting induced immediately and be seen, hospitalized, and placed on an IV drip with dextrose (sugar) for 24 hours. If liver damage occurs, then supportive care, transfusions, or other treatment may be necessary.

So far there have been no cases of xylitol toxicity in cats reported to the ASPCA Poison Control Center. In the event a dog consumes gum, they should be called immediately as the amount of xylitol in a stick of gum can vary depending on brand, size of the stick, and even flavor. The ASPCA has a 24 hour pet emergency poisoning hotline that is staffed by board certified toxicologists. They can be reached day or night at 1-888-426-4436.



Did You Know?

That for a 20 pound dog 1 small oatmeal cookie is the equivalent of 1 hamburger or one chocolate bar for a person.

That for a 10 pound cat ingesting 1 ounce of cheddar cheese is the same as a person eating 3 ½ hamburgers or 4 whole chocolate bars.

That for a 20 pound dog eating just 1 hot dog is the same as a person consuming 3 entire hamburgers or 2 whole chocolate bars.

That just cup of milk for a 10 pound cat has the same calories as 4 ½ hamburgers or 5 chocolate bars do for a person.

Upcoming Events

The Monroe Animal Hospital takes pride in supporting our community. We will be present, have a booth , and hope to see you at the following local events:

Loreal Because Your Dog is Worth it Too!, Saturday August 21st

Monroe Country Fair, Sunday, September 19th

Jamesburg Day, Sunday, October 3rd

North Brunswick Human Association Dog Walk, Sunday, October 3rd (Silver Level Sponsor)

Monroe Octoberfest, Sunday, October 17th