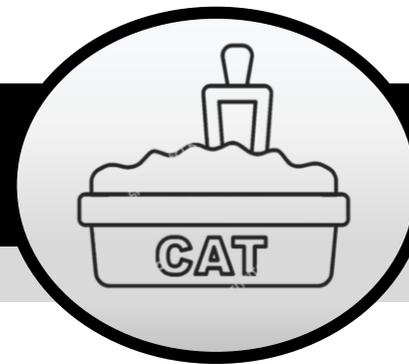


Urethral Blockage

In Cats



How does Urethral Blockage Occur?

Urethral blockage occurs when there is either inflammation or compression of the urethra. This occurs more commonly in male cats and can be caused by urinary crystals and urinary stones, tumors, scar tissue, and urinary tract disease.

Symptoms of a Urethral Blockage?

Symptoms can include:

- 🐾 Straining to urinate (beware, this may appear like constipation) – may be hunched over in litter and crying/yowling
- 🐾 Urinating more frequently
- 🐾 Blood-tinged urine
- 🐾 Dribbling urine
- 🐾 Vomiting
- 🐾 Not eating

Please note that if medical attention is not sought immediately, this may lead to bladder rupture +/- kidney failure. When your cat is unable to eliminate urine and associated by products, the build-up of pressure and toxins can cause the kidneys to fail.

Treatment for Urethral Blockage

Treatment for urethral blockage includes bloodwork to rule out kidney failure, changes in electrolytes that may affect treatment, and any other underlying medical issues. A urine sample is also run to determine the cause of the blockage. As well, a radiograph should be taken to ensure that there are no uroliths (bladder stones) present.

Next, your cat will need to be sedated in order for the Veterinary to pass a urinary catheter through your cat's urethra and into his bladder. The urethra is flushed several times via the urinary catheter and the obstruction is relieved. Once the blockage is relieved, the urinary catheter is kept in place for at least 48 hours, to allow for the urethra to recover before it has to function normally again. Your cat will be kept on intravenous fluids during this time to allow for adequate flushing of his urinary tract, hopefully resolving the issue that caused the blockage, and preventing any future problems.

Your cat may be sent home with anti-inflammatories and pain management, as well as medications which will help to reduce urethral spasms. Most cats that have had a urethral blockage are more prone to a second occurrence due to urethral spasms.

Can I prevent this from happening to my cat?

Some things may help to prevent this from happening....

- 🐾 Ensure adequate water intake for your cat. Most cats don't have a high thirst drive, so providing multiple sources of water, the addition of water to dry food, or a canned diet can all help.
- 🐾 Ensure that your cat has access to an adequate and safe litterbox
- 🐾 Ensure that your cat is fed an age appropriate diet that is well balanced. Often times, urethral obstruction may be due to crystal formation, which can be affected by diet.

Please ask us how we can help you prevent your cat from an unnecessary visit to the hospital!