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Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease (FLUTD)

What is it?

Feline lower urinary tract disease is an inflammatory condition of the lower urinary tract (bladder and urethra) causing significant discomfort. It usually occurs in young adult to middle-aged cats. The cause of the disease is currently unknown.

Symptoms:

Frequent urination, urinating small amounts, blood in urine, painful urination, and urinating outside the litter box are possible symptoms.

Diagnostics:

A urinalysis is usually performed to diagnose this disease if enough urine is present in the bladder at examination. Radiographs are often indicated. In recurrent cases further diagnostics include contrast radiographs, urine culture, and/or bloodwork.

Treatment:

The disease is usually self-limiting in 3-7 days. The disease episode can be shortened by increasing water intake. This can be accomplished by feeding canned food, providing fresh running water if possible (running a faucet frequently, buying a fountain water dish), or by offering Gatorade or some other palatable liquid. Treatment also consists of pain relief with anti-inflammatories. Antibiotics are sometimes given. The cat may need to be confined during the disease to prevent carpets, etc. from being ruined.

A cat with FLUTD will sometimes have recurrences of the disease. Thankfully, the recurrences are less frequent and less severe as the cat ages.

For more information or to ask questions please call Dr. Herrmann