

Feline Urethral Obstruction

What is it?

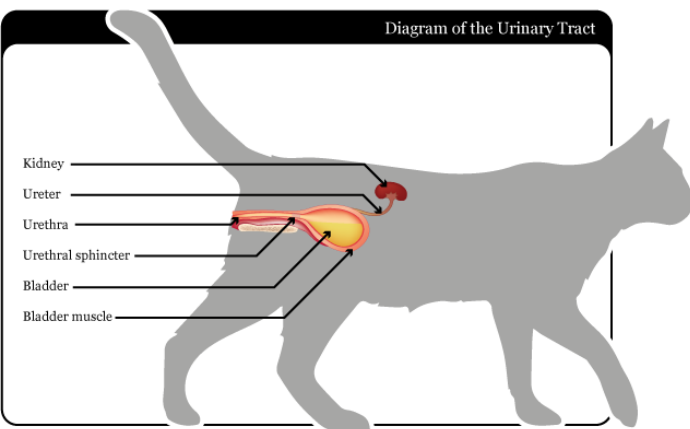
Cats (especially male cats) can suffer a blockage in their lower urinary tract, which can prevent them from urinating.

A urinary catheter has been passed to allow the inflammation to subside. This has now been removed and your cat is urinating well.

However, recurrence can be common

Possible Causes

- Stress - the most common cause in cats
 - Bladder stones - uncommon
 - Infection - rare



creature comforts

VETERINARY GROUP

What can be done to prevent recurrence?

- Pain relief and medication to help with the inflammation and spasm may be prescribed
- **Antibiotics are ONLY indicated if there is strong evidence for infection**
- A special urinary diet such as Hill's c/d or Royal Canin Urinary S/O may be recommended
- **To minimize stress, the following recommendations may help:**
 - Increasing the number of litter trays - at least one per cat plus one extra
 - Avoiding sudden changes in litter type
 - Increasing water intake - water fountains, additional water bowls of varying shapes and sizes in difficult locations, wet food etc.
 - Encouraging play and environmental enrichment – toys, catnip, cat trees or beds in high places
 - Using Feliway diffuser or spray – this contains pheromones that make cats feel more relaxed
 - Our vet may recommend medications to help with stress

Complications

Things to look out for include:

- straining to urinate
- dripping urine or no urine
- very bloody urine (mild bloody urine may be normal for 1-2 days after discharge)

If you're not sure if your cat is able to pass urine for >12 hours and is straining, assume it could be an emergency and you should call us immediately.