

## **What to do if.....my cat is having difficulty urinating?**

**NOTE: Complete failure to urinate is a potentially life threatening condition. If you have a male cat which you believe is not passing any urine at all you should contact the surgery urgently.**

Difficulty in urination, or dysuria, is a common presenting sign and is usually due to some form of urinary tract inflammation but total obstruction due to injury, crystals, nerve damage or deep inflammation can also occur and appear very similar initially. Signs include repeated attempts to pass urine, passing of small amounts often with blood seen, crying and restlessness. Male cats are more prone to obstruction than females due to the narrow tube that leads from the bladder to the outside (urethra). Any male cat presenting with difficulty urinating should be presented for examination as early as possible.

In females, obstruction is less common though can occur with a large bladder stone, with urethral damage or damage to the nerves that control the bladder.

In any case whilst urine is still being passed an appointment should be made for your cat to be examined. If no urine is being passed an urgent exam is required.

Treatments include antibiotics, catheterisation and even surgery for large bladder stones. Urine sampling and xrays are needed in most cases which do not respond to simple initial treatments. Longterm medication and dietary change are often necessary.

Stress is a common trigger as are changes of food especially from wet to dry food.