



CYSTITIS

What is the Cystitis?

Cystitis means simply an inflammation of the urinary bladder. In the dog it is most commonly caused by bacteria swimming up the urethra from the vagina in the female or the opening of the penis in the male. Because the female has a shorter urethra, it is more common in females. Any problem that causes impaired urination or incomplete bladder emptying will predispose the animal to cystitis (like back problems or paralysis). Trauma to the bladder (i.e. being hit by a car), the presence of tumors, and bladder stones may also be contributing factors.

Bladder stones (cystic calculi) may develop with chronic cystitis. They are rocklike formations inside the bladder (or kidneys). They can prevent the elimination of infection even with very effective antibiotics, because bacteria can hide inside them.

What are the Signs of Cystitis?

The most common signs of cystitis are straining when urinating and passing frequent, small amounts of blood-tinged urine. Some pet will act generally uncomfortable and may lose their appetite. Occasionally small stones may obstruct the urethra so a pet cannot urinate. They will strain to urinate, but nothing comes. These pets become rapidly critically ill, and require immediate emergency care.

How is Cystitis Diagnosed?

The history and physical examination findings will suggest cystitis as a possible problem, but a urinalysis is needed for confirmation. Under the microscope the urine is evaluated for the presence of blood, pus cells, bacteria, protein, crystals, and kidney "casts."

A bacterial culture from the urine may be recommended, especially if the infection persists after the initial treatment. Radiographs (X-rays) may be indicated to find stones in the bladder and kidneys. Some stones are invisible to Xrays,

so dye and air may be injected into the bladder to allow a contrast to make the stones more visible.

How is Cystitis Treated?

The treatment can include antibiotics, urinary acidifiers or alkalizers, special prescription diets, and fluid therapy. Surgery may be needed to remove stones or tumors. Stones can be of several different kinds and the treatment can vary depending on the particular kind. For this reason the stones should be analyzed and cultures taken from inside them. This information will be very valuable in determining the best treatment and the overall long-term prognosis.

Special instructions: _____

Your next appointment is _____

Call Us If...

- Your pet's urinating habits appear to be getting worse.
- You notice any degradation in your pet's general health.
- You have trouble giving the prescribed medicine.
- Your pet loses its appetite or refuses to eat the medically prescribed diet.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve you!