



FELINE LOWER URINARY TRACT DISEASE (FLUTD) & FELINE UROLOGIC SYNDROME (FUS)

What is FLUTD & FUS?

The terms "feline urologic syndrome" (FUS) or "feline lower urinary tract disease" (FLUTD) are commonly used by the veterinarians to describe disorders of domestic cats characterized by bloody urine, urinary straining, and partial or complete urethral obstruction. Various combinations of these signs can be associated with any cause of lower urinary tract disease in cats. The similarity of clinical signs caused by diverse causes is not surprising, since the feline urinary tract responds to various diseases in a limited and predictable fashion.

What Causes FLUTD & FUS?

The exact cause(s) is unknown. Experimental and clinical studies have implicated calicivirus, feline syncytia-forming virus, and a gamma herpesvirus (bovine herpesvirus 4) as potential causes in some cats. In a minority of cases bacteria will be involved. Although uncommon, fungal urinary tract infection and urinary parasites have been reported in cats. Some cats will have repeated bouts of FLUTD/FUS over a period of months or years.

What are the Symptoms of FLUTD & FUS?

Lower urinary tract disease can occur at any age but is most commonly recognized in young to middle-aged adult cats of either sex. Signs of FUS can include bloody urine, straining to urinate, frequent urination, urinating in inappropriate locations, and outflow obstruction (blocked urethra with crystals or mucus) where a cat is unable to urinate. The blocked cat will rapidly become toxic from urinary wastes building up in the bloodstream. It will become depressed, vomit, have a dry coat (dehydration) and sunken eyes, and crying in pain. Death can follow within 48-72 hours if emergency care isn't given.

How is FLUTD & FUS Diagnosed?

The history and physical examination findings of a thickened, firm, contracted bladder wall and urethral plugs or "sand" that may be detected by examination

of the distal penis and penile urethral are all quite suggestive of the disease. A complete urinalysis and possibly blood tests will complete the picture.

How is It Treated?

INPATIENT vs. OUTPATIENT: Cats with nonobstructive lower urinary tract diseases are typically managed as outpatients. However, diagnostic evaluation may require a brief hospitalization.

On the other hand, patients that are blocked require hospitalization and emergency care. Under sedation the urethra is unblocked and a catheter is placed up into the bladder. Intravenous fluids and antibiotics are often needed. Monitoring of heart and kidney functions are essential. Some male or neutered male cats will require surgery (perinealurethralurostomy) to enlarge their urethra so they can't reobstruct ("plug up").

Follow-Up Care

Various types of medicine and special Prescription Diets (S/d, C/d, or U/d) may be indicated for home care. Repeat urinalyses should be done to determine the status of blood & pus in the urine, urine pH, and crystals. Adjustments may be indicated in the treatment and/or diet of your cat according to the findings.

Call Us If...

- Male cats showing signs of urethral obstruction (straining with little or no urine apparent).
- Straining or bloody urine in female cats.
- Your cat is unwilling to eat Prescription Diets.
- Any downturn in the general health of your cat.

Special instructions: _____

Thank you for this opportunity to serve you!