



THE PET GAZETTE

Brought to You by **FLOREAT VETERINARY CENTRE**

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HOURS OF BUSINESS

Mon-Fri.....8.00am -7.00pm
Saturday.....8.00am - 5.00pm
Sun & Pub. Holidays.....10.00am - 5.00pm

CONSULTATION BY APPOINTMENT

**438 CAMBRIDGE STREET
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Urinary Problems in Cats

FUS (short for Feline Urological Syndrome) is a very common condition of the middle aged cat.

The condition encompasses a complex set of problems with a variety of causes, some of which remain undetermined.

There is a wide belief that a diet comprised solely of dried cat food puts a cat at risk of developing FUS. Although this still has not been evaluated scientifically.

The FUS condition is indicated by the formation of crystals in the urine or stones in the kidney or bladder. These can block the flow of urine to the bladder or through the urethra. Unfortunately, as the male cats urethra narrows near the end, males are more vulnerable to an obstruction.

Signs of FUS include blood in the urine, frequent straining to urinate, and licking at the end of the urethra.

Complete obstruction is potentially lethal and can cause death in 24-48 hours if left untreated. Obstruction causes toxic waste products to accumulate in the body and can poison the cat. It can usually be treated if the owner takes the cat to the Veterinarian in time.

Since early detection is so vital, pay attention to your cats litter habits. If your pet strains to urinate, has blood in his urine, persistently

licks at his urethra, or goes to the box more frequently than usual, you can catch the problem early and take your pet to the Veterinarian for prompt treatment.

A cat that has FUS once is more likely to develop the condition at a later time. Depending on the cause, he may need regular medication or surgery to prevent further problems.

SUGGESTED POINTS TO REMEMBER

1. Provide the cat with the opportunity to urinate frequently. (DO NOT confine the animal for long periods, clean litter frequently).
2. Observe the cat's urinating habits and colour of the urine and if possible determine the size of the bladder.
3. Provide plenty of fresh water. Encourage water consumption.
4. Continue medication as prescribed eg antibiotics and/or urinary acidifiers, in conjunction with the prescribed veterinary diet.
5. Contact us at the clinic immediately if recurrence is suspected.
6. Feed prescription diet foods as directed. These diet foods are very palatable and provide all the right balance of protein, carbohydrates, vitamins and mineral needed by the adult cat



Keep an eye on your cat for any urinary problems.

AUTUMN ISSUE



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Clever Cats



Cats, not unlike young children, need to be carefully taught right from wrong.

It is a myth that cats cannot be trained. In Moscow there is a 'cat circus' where 120 cats, mostly rescued stray cats have a new safe, warm and well-fed life entertaining hundreds of people each day. The owner and trainer of these circus cats emphasises that cats can only be trained with love.

Most owners would not want their cat to leap through hoops and perform other circus tricks, most pet owners want to train their cat NOT to perform certain actions. However, the same principles of training apply.

The key to successful training is to make sure that whatever you want your cat to do is rewarding and pleasurable for the cat.

Reward may be food, attention, a pat or simply the cat getting what it wants. Whatever you don't want your cat to do must never be rewarding and may even need to be unpleasant without doing the cat any harm.

Sometimes we unintentionally reward our cats for unwanted behaviour. Cats which vocalise excessively often get fed or patted to quieten them - this teaches the cat that if it meows it gets attention. However, cats which are used to being fed early on weekday mornings, often wake the owner early in the morning on weekends.

Reprimands do not work when training your cat. However using a water pistol to spray a misbehaving cat from a distance at the very moment it is performing the unwanted behaviour will make the behaviour less likely to be repeated.

Shouting, verbally disciplining or hitting a cat will only make it resent you and more likely to perform other unwanted behaviour through stress.

If you catch kitty in the act, he will only misbehave when you are not around. If you punish the cat later, he

will not associate the reprimand with the crime. In either case, the misbehaviour continues. Some cats misbehave just to get attention and the attention is enough of a reward to cause kitty to continue his ways. So what do we do?

Many indoor cats scratch at furniture, especially the back of upholstered chairs. Most cats don't like to walk over foil, so surrounding the chair with aluminium foil (as a temporary measure not a decorating feature) may deter the cat from approaching the chair. However, scratching is a normal cat behaviour which cannot be stopped so it is necessary to provide a scratching pole for the indoor cat to use. Once your cat realises that chairs are not fun to scratch, but the scratching post is, the problem of inappropriate scratching will stop.

The independent nature of the cat means that, unlike dogs, they will only perform actions which please them. Think like your cat - is it worthwhile performing that action? What will the reward be? Is there something else I could do, somewhere else I could go which would be more rewarding?

Teaching your cat to perform desirable actions is easier and more fun for both cat and owner than trying to stop bad habits.

Heartworm A Killer

Heartworm is not an intestinal worm, but is a parasite that lives in the main arteries that transport blood from the heart to the lungs. This disease is transmitted by the mosquito.

In areas where heartworm is known to be present, and this is most of Australia, dogs need to be on a preventative medicine.

It is important that no preventative medication be given without being first tested to ensure the pet is not already infected with

heartworm. A simple blood test that only takes a few minutes is all that is needed to diagnose heartworm infection.

The first sign of infection is either a chronic cough, which is aggravated by exercise, or tiring on exercise. As the disease advances the following signs show up - shortness of breath; collapse on exercise; severe coughing spasms which may cause bleeding and the coughing up of blood. Other signs could include gradual weight loss, heart failure with a build up of fluid in the

abdomen, harsh dry coat, anaemia and even death. By the time these signs develop the disease is well advanced and there may already be irreversible damage to the heart and lungs.

Some heartworm preventative medications also kill intestinal worms, so if your dog is already on heartworm preventatives, please discuss with us how often you should worm for intestinal worms.

IT IS FAR EASIER TO PREVENT HEARTWORM DISEASE THAN TO CURE IT!

Fishy Trivia

There are over 20,000 species of fish inhabiting the salt and fresh waters of the world.

In the 16th Century Chang chi-en-te wrote the first book on keeping fish "The book of the Vermilion".

Philip Gosse founded the first public aquarium at London zoo in 1853.

Fish swim by contracting bands of muscles in sequence on alternating sides of the body so that the tail moves rapidly from side to side. Fins are used mainly for stabilisation.

Fish breathe oxygen, not air - as water passes over a system of fine gill membranes the oxygen is absorbed. Gills contain a network of fine blood vessels that take up the oxygen and diffuse it through the membranes.

Fish would suffocate if they tried to chew their food as it would interfere with the passage of water over the gills.

Carnivorous fish (sharks) have sharp teeth which they use to seize and hold their prey, but swallow it whole or in large pieces. Herbivorous fish often have tooth-like grinding mills in their throat.

It is believed that most fish are colour blind, but they can see colour shadings, reflected light, shape and movement.

The oldest goldfish in the world is believed to be "Freda" who died in Sussex, England in 1980 aged 41 years. In China they have also been reported as living over 40 years.

The most famous goldfish on record is probably a Black Moor named "Miss Liberty" which toured the USA during the First World War promoting the sale of Liberty Bonds.

Fits & Seizures in Dogs

Fits or seizures in dogs can be very distressing for the owner and are a common cause of emergency calls in a veterinary practice.

Causes range widely from poisonings such as snail bait through to metabolic diseases of various types and, of course, epilepsy.

Epileptic fits usually only last a couple of minutes and do not harm the dog.

Fits lasting longer than this or occurring in clusters one after another require emergency attention.

Any dog which has been seen to fit should be examined to rule out metabolic and other causes of fits, particularly when the dog is more than five years old when it first fits.

Epilepsy rarely begins after five years of age.

If no other cause can be found, then the diagnosis of epilepsy can be made by exclusion of all the other possibilities.

Treatment for epilepsy is usually not begun until at least two fits have occurred, as this gives an idea of the expected interval between fits.

Medication is unlikely to prevent all further fits but aims to increase the interval between fits.

As the fits themselves do not usually harm the dog, it is up to the owner to decide whether the frequency of fits warrants medication.

Medication must be given for the rest of the dog's life.

Anticonvulsants must be tailored to each individual dog and sometimes two different drugs must be used for good control.

If your dog has a fit, call us immediately, especially if the fit goes for longer than two minutes, if you suspect poisoning or if the dog goes from one fit to another.

Clear furniture from around the dog so it cannot injure itself and never put your fingers in its mouth as you will surely get bitten.

If your dog recovers from a single fit, bring him into the clinic at the next opportunity for careful assessment and advice.



Fits & Seizures are common cause of emergency calls in a vet practice.



Staff News

New Class - Kitten Kindy

At the Floreat Veterinary Centre, we believe kitten kindy is an important part of kittenhood. Our classes are run weekly by a qualified veterinary nurse at the clinic, and we recommend that every kitten and kitten owner attend a course of 4 classes.

These classes cover Health Care, Kitten Behaviour, Responsible Pet Ownership and Kitten Training, and we also allow time for kitten interaction and socialisation.

Your kitten's peak socialisation period is from birth to 16 weeks, so we encourage all kittens to come along after their first vaccination.

Kitten kindy is an educational experience for all kittens and their families and is run in a fun environment at only \$44 for 4 weeks.



Enrol your kitten today for our exciting new KITTEN KINDY classes on Wednesday night at 7.30pm



Floreat Practice Manager Tracy Martin & friend

Most of you will know our nurse and pup behavioural and training expert Tracy Martin from puppy pre-school days.

Tracy now has also expanded her role, and has been appointed practice manager of our clinic.

CONGRATULATIONS TRACY!

New ECG Machine

Owing to the generous donation from one of our clients, we are able to purchase a new state of the art electrocardiogram (ECG) in memory of a very special Dalmation by the name of 'Sharro'

An ECG is a machine which measures the electric currents generated by the heart and graphs

them onto paper. The pattern of heart waves that is traced on the paper indicates the heart's rhythm and other actions. As such, it helps us to diagnose heart rhythm disturbances and underlying heart disease.

This new acquisition will be an important diagnostic and monitoring tool for all our cardiac patients.

Bubbling Bonanza

Special Offer for all dirty dogs!

Buy a combined Epi-soothe® shampoo and conditioner pack and you will receive complimentary membership to the Floreat Vet Centre's **Hounds Hydrobath Club**.

This entitles you to receive 1 FREE hydrobath in 5!

Alternatively, buying a 500ml medicated shampoo treatment will also enable you to receive membership.

By joining this club your furry friend will also go into the running to win a year's worth of hydrobath therapy and other great prizes.



Enquire today about your membership card!