

FLUTD (Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease)

What it is:

FLUTD denotes a group of symptoms, but does not specify the cause.

These signs are:

- bloody urine
- straining to urinate/painful urination
- urinating outside the litter box
- urinary blockage/obstruction

A cat does not need to have all of the above signs to have FLUTD.

Possible causes are below. They are ranked by the cat's age and history.

The average age of a FLUTD cat is 4 years old. Of these **younger** cats:

- 50% will not have a cause that we can find despite extensive tests
- 20% will have bladder stones
- 20% will have urethral blockage/obstruction –usually male
- 1-5% have bacterial infection
- 1-5% have bladder cancer
- 1-5% have had trauma to bladder (hit by car, etc)
- 1-5% have combination of stone and infection

For **older** cats (around 10 years or older) the ranking changes dramatically:

- 50% will have bacterial infection
- 10% will have bladder stones
- 17% will have combination of stone and infection
- 7% will have urethral obstruction
- 3% will have bladder cancer
- 5 % will have a cause that we can't find despite extensive tests

The older cats have a much greater chance of having kidney disease as a complicating factor.

How to find out what is going on?

1. Examination
2. Urinalysis
3. X-rays
4. Urine Culture
5. Bloodwork
6. Ultrasound

The order depends on results of the exam and history of each patient.