



MAIN STREET

ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Seasonal Newsletter

Summer 2018

"Hot town, summer as a kitty"

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Welcome to Main Street Animal Hospital's seasonal newsletter, your quarterly source for pet health news, updates from around the hospital, savings opportunities, and staff profiles.

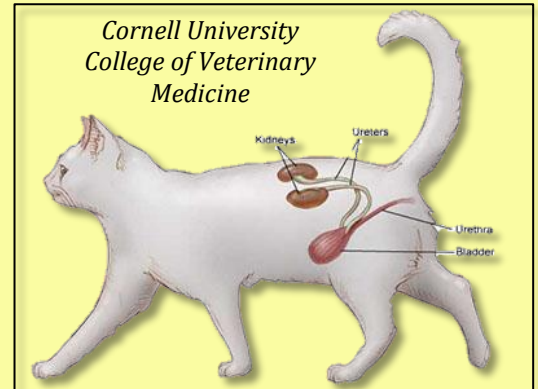
Featured Article: Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disorder

Feline lower urinary tract disorder, or FLUTD (pronounced "fluted"), is a generalized name for a number of different disorders that can affect cats. In most cases, these disorders are the result of one of four categorical causes: a urinary tract infection (UTI), cystitis (bladder inflammation), crystals in the urine, or bladder stones.

Just as there are multiple clinical disorders, there is a range of potential causes of FLUTD. Among them are stress factors (including stress induced by other cats) and environmental changes, but there can be others as well. Identifying the cause requires some detective work, so it is helpful to observe your cat's behavior closely and to know how recently symptoms arose.

A cat suffering from FLUTD will most frequently exhibit symptoms during urination. Difficult urinating, crying out during urination, bloody urine, inappropriate and/or more frequent urination, or more grooming attention directed to the genitals can all point to FLUTD. Importantly, if a cat struggling to urinate is male, he may have developed a urinary tract obstruction, which can be fatal. Always check with your veterinarian immediately if you suspect FLUTD conditions or a blockage.

To determine which of these factors might be affecting a cat, veterinarians typically first do a urinalysis. Ultrasound can also be used to better identify the cause. Treatments are then tailored to the individual pet's needs.



Did You Know?

The CDC recently announced that the state of Pennsylvania has the highest number of reported **Lyme disease** cases in the United States, and it's not even a close race.

In the year 2016, the most recent for which data has been compiled, Pennsylvania had 8988 (human) cases of Lyme disease. New Jersey, second in the country, had fewer than 5000. In fact, Pennsylvania has led the country in Lyme disease each year back to 2011.

These statistics are a good reminder that we must protect ourselves and our pets during "tick season."

Ask your veterinarian if you have any questions about Lyme or tick-borne disease.



Summertime Pet Practices

Now that summer has arrived, we need to be more vigilant for our pets' conditions as the weather turns hot.

- Be mindful of the heat – dogs and cats can easily experience heat stress, especially inside our vehicles.
- Noise phobias can be brought on by fireworks and summer thunderstorms.
- Extra travel can lead to anxiety in some pets.

Thankfully, with a little extra planning ahead with your veterinarian, we can all have the kind of fun only summer can bring.