

Urinary Issue Information:

Is your cat peeing outside the box just because he's mad at you? Probably not, actually! Cat urinary problems are usually a medical issue with several main "causes."

Stones/crystals: Cats can have stones or little microscopic crystals which act like miniature shards poking the bladder and the urethra, causing pain. Cats formulate crystals from a combination of physical predisposition (bad genetic luck) and diet, and we often treat this with dietary changes and medications.

UTIs: Cats, like humans, can get urinary tract infections (UTIs). UTIs are most often caused by external bacteria travelling up the urethra into the bladder and overgrowing. This is uncommon for young cats, but has a higher likelihood with age or with other predisposing genetic issues.

FIG: *Feline idiopathic cystitis* (AKA *stress cystitis*, *feline lower urinary tract disease*, *Pandora syndrome*, *feline urologic syndrome* - it has so many different names!) is a urinary manifestation of physiologic stress. Cats perceive and internalize stress and anxiety differently than humans. We see clinical signs mimicking a UTI (such as a thickening of the bladder wall), but no actual infection. We have to treat the discomfort of the bladder in addition to the stressors causing it. This syndrome can wax and wane, with some cats only having one episode and other cats having multiple. Since each cat is an individual, we personalize each therapy plan to their particular situations.

Combination: And then there are cats who will have combinations of various urinary issues, just to throw us a curveball.

Testing: If your cat is having urinary issues, we examine them and look at the bladder with our ultrasound to get a sample of urine to evaluate under the microscope. Depending on the cat, we may need to do a culture for bacteria, bloodwork, or radiographs to look for other issues. What we find helps determine our plan to help your cat.

Treatments: Depending on your cat's individual needs we might prescribe: a diet change, increase of fluids, antibiotics or other medications, or suggest environmental changes you can implement at home.

So if your cat is urinating outside the litterbox, peeing more frequently (or not at all), or having any other changes to their urination habits, please call us **ASAP** to get them examined



Wynter's words :

**We have 3 adult cats up for adoption;
come ask about them!!!**



HEBRON
CAT HOSPITAL

