

TAIL INJURIES IN CATS

Understanding Tail Trauma, Nerve Damage & Recovery

A cat's tail is an important extension of the spine that helps with balance, communication, and movement. Tail injuries can range from minor wounds to severe nerve damage affecting the tail, bladder, and bowel function.

Prompt veterinary assessment is important to ensure the best possible outcome.

**TAIL INJURIES
MAY AFFECT
BLADDER AND
BOWEL CONTROL
IF NERVES ARE
DAMAGED.**



? WHAT IS A TAIL INJURY?

Tail injuries can involve:

- Fractures (broken tail bones)
- Dislocations
- Nerve damage
- Tail-pull injuries
- Bite wounds and lacerations
- Crush injuries



In severe cases, nerves controlling urination and defecation may also be affected.

💡 DID YOU KNOW?

- A tail injury may look minor on the outside but can cause significant damage to the nerves beneath the skin.
- Cats with tail injuries should always be examined by a veterinarian.

COMMON CAUSES OF TAIL INJURIES



Road traffic accidents



Tail caught in doors or gates



Falls from heights



Animal attacks



Stepped on or trapped



Crush injuries

Outdoor cats are at greater risk of traumatic tail injuries.

1 RECOGNISE THE SIGNS

Common signs include:

- Limp or drooping tail
- Swelling or bruising
- Pain when the tail is touched
- Inability to lift the tail
- Kinks or abnormal tail position
- Dragging the tail
- Bleeding or wounds
- Hair loss around the injury

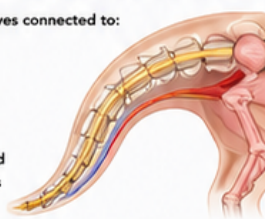


! *Some cats hide pain and may simply become quiet or withdrawn.*

2 WHY ARE TAIL INJURIES SERIOUS?

The tail contains nerves connected to:

- Tail movement
- Bladder control
- Bowel control
- Sensation around the hindquarters



Severe injuries may cause:

- Urinary retention
- Urinary incontinence
- Faecal incontinence
- Permanent nerve damage

Early assessment is essential.

3 HOW IS IT DIAGNOSED?

Your veterinarian may:

- Perform a physical examination
- Assess tail movement and sensation
- Evaluate bladder function
- Check hind limb reflexes
- Take X-rays
- Assess for other injuries



Accurate diagnosis helps determine the extent of bone and nerve damage.

4 TREATMENT OPTIONS

Treatment depends on the type and severity of injury.

Options may include:

- Pain relief
- Anti-inflammatory medications
- Wound management
- Antibiotics if infection is present
- Cage rest and restricted activity
- Bladder management
- Surgical repair in some cases
- Tail amputation if the tail is severely damaged



Many cats adapt extremely well after tail amputation if required.

5 RECOVERY & AFTERCARE

Your cat may need:

- Rest and confinement
- Follow-up examinations
- Monitoring of urination and defecation
- Wound care
- Medication administration
- Use of an Elizabethan collar



Recovery time varies depending on the severity of the injury.

6 PREVENTION TIPS

You can help reduce the risk of tail injuries by:

- Keeping your cat indoors or in secure outdoor areas
- Installing secure windows and screens
- Closing doors and gates carefully
- Supervising outdoor time
- Keeping hazardous areas safe and cat-proof



A safe environment helps keep your cat out of harm's way.

7 WHEN TO SEE YOUR VETERINARIAN

Seek veterinary attention immediately if your cat:

- Cannot lift its tail
- Has a limp or dragging tail
- Has swelling or bleeding
- Cannot urinate normally
- Is leaking urine
- Has loss of bowel control
- Appears painful after trauma



These signs may indicate serious nerve injury.

ADDITIONAL TIPS



Tail injuries often occur alongside other trauma



Nerve damage may take weeks to months to improve



Monitor litter tray habits closely during recovery



Early treatment improves outcomes

EVERY CAT COUNTS



If your cat develops a limp tail, has been involved in an accident, or shows difficulty urinating after a tail injury, seek veterinary care immediately.

Prompt assessment can help prevent complications and improve recovery.

