

# FORBES VETERINARY CLINIC

# URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS (UTIs) IN CATS

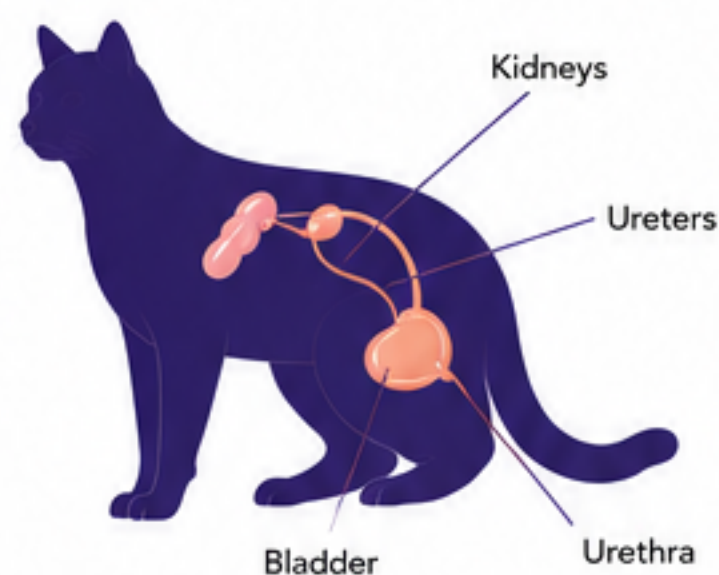
Early detection. Prompt treatment.  
Better outcomes.

A urinary tract infection (UTI) occurs when bacteria enter the urinary system, causing inflammation and irritation. UTIs can cause significant discomfort for your cat and may lead to more serious health problems if left untreated.



## ? WHAT IS A UTI?

A UTI is an infection that affects any part of the urinary tract – the bladder, urethra or kidneys. Most infections in cats affect the lower urinary tract (bladder and urethra).



## ! SIGNS TO WATCH FOR

- Straining to urinate
- Frequent trips to the litter tray
- Passing small amounts of urine
- Blood in the urine (pink, red or brown discolouration)
- Urinating outside the litter tray
- Crying, vocalising or restlessness
- Licking the genital area
- Cloudy or strong-smelling urine
- Loss of appetite
- Lethargy or hiding more than usual
- Signs of pain or discomfort when urinating

**!** Urgent care is needed if your cat is unwell, unable to urinate or straining in the litter tray.

## Q POSSIBLE CAUSES

|                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br>Bacterial infection (most common cause) | <br>Inadequate water intake              | <br>Dirty litter tray or stress |
| <br>Stress or changes in environment        | <br>Bladder stones or crystals           | <br>Obesity or inactivity       |
| <br>Underlying kidney disease               | <br>Diabetes or other medical conditions | <br>Certain medications         |

UTIs can be recurrent or linked to an underlying health condition.

## 1 WHEN TO SEE YOUR VETERINARIAN

Seek veterinary care if your cat shows any signs of a UTI. Early treatment can relieve discomfort and prevent the infection from worsening.

**!** Go to your veterinarian urgently if your cat:

- Is straining to urinate with little or no urine produced
- Has blood in the urine
- Is crying out or showing signs of pain
- Is lethargic, hiding or unwell
- Has a swollen, painful abdomen

## 2 HOW UTIs ARE DIAGNOSED

Your veterinarian may recommend:

- Physical examination
- Urinalysis (urine sample)
- Urine culture and sensitivity (to identify bacteria and best antibiotic)
- Blood tests if underlying disease is suspected
- Imaging (X-rays or ultrasound) if needed

 A clean-catch urine sample provides the most accurate results.

## 3 TREATMENT

Treatment depends on the severity and cause of the infection.

- Antibiotics to eliminate the infection
- Anti-inflammatory or pain relief medication if needed
- Increased water intake encouraged
- Dietary changes may be recommended for recurrent cases
- Addressing any underlying health issues

 Complete the full course of medication even if your cat appears better, to ensure the infection is fully cleared.

## 4 PREVENTION TIPS

- Always provide fresh, clean water
- Provide multiple litter trays (1 per cat plus one extra)
- Keep litter trays clean – scoop daily and change litter regularly
- Use a low-stress environment
- Feed a balanced, high-quality diet
- Encourage play and mental stimulation
- Regular veterinary check-ups



## 💡 DID YOU KNOW?

Cats, especially males and older cats, are more prone to urinary tract issues.

Recurrent UTIs may indicate an underlying medical problem that needs investigation.

Prompt treatment helps prevent recurrence and protects your cat's comfort and health.

