

Urinary tract problems in dogs & cats

There are many problems that can affect a dog's or cat's lower urinary system. Incontinence, bladder stones or crystals in the urine, bacterial infections, cancer, trauma or even obstruction of the urethra (the tube that allows urine to pass from the bladder to the outside of the body) can occur.



Photo by: www.potterphotography.ca

How Can I Tell if My Pet Has Urinary Tract Problems?

- The following signs may indicate that your dog is having trouble with his urinary tract:
- Inability to urinate or only passing a small amount of urine
- Bloody or cloudy urine
- Fever
- Loss of bladder control, dribbling urine
- Increased amount and/or frequency of urination
- Straining and/or crying out in pain
- Soiling in inappropriate places
- Constant licking of urinary opening
- Strong odor to the urine
- Lethargy
- Vomiting
- Changes in appetite
- Weight loss
- Severe back pain
- Increased water consumption

If your dog or cat is showing any of the listed symptoms or you suspect a urinary tract infection (UTI), please call our office to schedule an appointment with one of our veterinarians. Often times, it is simply an infection that can be cleared up easily with antibiotics. However, if your pet is straining to urinate or crying out in pain this could be a medical emergency and there is no time to waste.

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current topics >>>

Medication backorders continue to plague the medical/veterinary world

The pharmaceutical world is experiencing backorders and delays like we have never seen before. The staff at Creekside spends a great amount of time trying to keep up on what medications are on backorder, when they might be released, and looking for a possible source to make sure all of our patients have the medications that they need. No matter how hard we try we cannot always guarantee we will have your pet's medication if it is one on backorder. Please be patient and remember to call well in advance if we have cautioned you that your pet's medication is in danger of backorder. The other dilemma we are facing is increase cost on many medications as they come off of backorder. Sometimes the cost of these medications can increase by 5 times the original cost. We will do all we can to let you know ahead of time and help you find affordable alternatives (if possible).

Comparing Apples to Apples

There are many facilities available for spaying or neutering your pet. Creekside Animal Hospital prides itself on providing the best medical care possible for your pet. When exploring spay/neuter facility options, please make sure you are inquiring about important topics such as safety protocols, anesthetic protocols and monitoring, sterility, pain relief, etc. It is important to know what each facility offers in order to make the best decision for your pet.

Pre-surgical Exam— Done by one of our Veterinarians, this helps evaluate that your pet is healthy enough to undergo anesthesia.

Pre-surgical Blood work—Evaluates your pet's internal organs and blood cells, helping ensure your puppy has no underlying conditions that need addressed prior to anesthesia.

Tailored Anesthetic Protocols—Every pet is different, therefore every medication used on your puppy has been specifically selected for him/her and the procedure he/she is undergoing.

IV Catheter—Provides an instant access to your puppy's vein. This helps in the case of an emergency if life-saving drugs are needed. It also helps achieve anesthesia

Sterility—Your puppy's procedure is performed in a sterile surgery suite by a surgeon who has scrubbed in and then puts on a sterile cap, mask, gown, and gloves. The surgical instruments and suture are sterilized in an autoclave prior to use. New syringes and needles are used for each injections.

Anesthetic Monitoring—Your puppy is monitored under anesthesia by a Registered Veterinary Technician and support team. Your puppy's heart rate, rhythm, blood oxygenation, and respiration are also monitored by high tech equipment.

Pain Relief—Your puppy's comfort is important to the staff at Creekside Animal Hospital. Your puppy receives a multi-modal approach to pain management to help ease the discomfort of the procedure.

Fall Dangers >>>

Reminders to keep our furry family safe this fall

>The use of rodenticides increases in the fall as rodents seek shelter from the cooler temperatures by attempting to move indoors. Rodenticides are highly toxic to pets—if ingested, the results could be fatal. If you must use these products, do so with extreme caution and put them in places inaccessible to your pets.

>Training tip: If you and your pooch haven't been active outdoors in a while because of the summer heat, do some remedial recall training. Dogs, like people, get rusty on their skills if they aren't using them.

>Urinary Obstruction in male cats. We don't know why but fall is when we see the most male cats with urinary blockages. Signs that your cat could be "blocked" are: *crying *not producing urine *producing very small amounts frequently *lethargy *not eating or acting normal

>Many people choose fall as the time to change their car's engine coolant. Ethylene glycol-based coolants are highly toxic, so spills should be cleaned up immediately. Consider switching to propylene glycol-based coolants—though they aren't completely nontoxic, they are much less toxic than other engine coolants.

>Fall and spring are mushroom seasons. While 99% of mushrooms have little or no toxicity, [the 1% that are highly toxic](#) can cause life-threatening problems in pets. Unfortunately, most of the highly toxic mushrooms are difficult to distinguish from the nontoxic ones, so the best way to keep pets from ingesting poisonous mushrooms is to keep them away from areas where any mushrooms are growing. Contact your vet immediately if you witness your pet eating a wild mushroom.



Wellness Packages for Puppies and Kittens

Creekside Animal Hospital prides itself on providing the highest quality medical care at a reasonable price – with that in mind we have created new puppy and kitten wellness packages, designed to help you affordably get your young pets off to the best start possible. These packages include all of the core medical necessities, as well as a 30 minute behavior consultation to help you correct any negative behaviors before they become a big problem. Please call our office for more information.

The first year of your pet's life is the most exciting, but also can be the most costly. However, investing in preventative healthcare can save you hundreds in unexpected veterinary fees. The staff at Creekside Animal Hospital is your partner for wellness and preventative care.

Physical examinations can identify underlying medical conditions before your pet becomes ill. Puppies require multiple examinations to ensure all systems are growing and developing properly. Since pets cannot tell us when they are feeling ill or just not up to snuff, it is important to monitor your pet's health closely. As pet parents, you will play a large role in the pet care team, helping to identify any abnormal changes in your pet's behavior or habits.

With their natural curiosity for their surroundings, puppies and kittens are constantly at risk for exposure to thousands of disease causing organisms. Vaccinations series help prevent many deadly infections. Timing is the most important part of the series.

The veterinarians at Creekside Animal Hospital will advise you on the best schedule for proper vaccination of your puppy or kitten.

Since all pets are at risk of exposure to heartworms and parasites, it is important to provide protection against infection. This is achieved through regular fecal examinations, routine de-worming, and multi-modal preventatives. The Creekside Animal Hospital staff can assist you in choosing the best products for you and your puppy/kitten.

Please be aware these packages are designed to cover preventative care. Any additional medication, treatments, or procedures not covered in this description will include an additional fee.

Since timing on vaccinations is critical and spaying and neutering is best done sooner rather than later, this package must be completed within 4 months of time of purchase.

This program is designed to make the best preventative pet care available to you at an affordable price. Cost of this package depends on the sex and species of your pet. It is designed to be paid for in 3 equal installments.



The true cost of pet ownership

According to Forbes.com the average yearly cost to own a pet is \$1570. This includes food, vet visits, training, medical insurance, grooming sessions, toys, treats and dental cleanings. Plus, once your pooch ages, he or she could very well need medications, arthritis supplements or surgeries. All told, for a large dog, that could mean at least \$1,570



Canine Influenza

Canine Flu has now spread to 39 states and the District of Columbia. There is a vaccine to protect your pet against this virus. If you will be traveling out of state with your pet we recommend bringing your dog in for vaccination. If you plan to board your pet locally, please ask if the kennel is requiring the Flu vaccine this year. It is always best to play it safe and get your dog vaccinated if they are going to be in a group situation, even though we haven't had any confirmed cases here in Indiana. You can find more information about Dog Flu at: www.doginfluenza.com

Boarding your pet's this Holiday Season?

Fall brings a lot of Holiday travel and with that comes the decision of what to do with our pets? Should you board them? Have a pet sitter come to the house? What about taking them with on the vacation? All three are great options and only you will know what is best for your family and pets. There are pro's and con's to each option. We wanted to remind

anyone who might be planning to board their pets to call their boarding facility well in advance to make your reservations. While you are on the phone make sure to find out what their vaccine and health requirements are. Some facilities require recent fecal and heartworm testing, while others do not. Most will require that your dog is current on its bordetella vaccine (kennel cough) and even if they do not require it we HIGHLY recommend you get this vaccination for your dogs that will be in group situations. (Cats do not get kennel cough, therefore do not require vaccination for this illness). If you opt to have someone come to your house, please be sure to call us and let us know if it is OK to treat your pet while you are away, should something occur while you are gone.



Q: *Is it safe to buy treats/toys that are made in China?*

A: In the last 6 months we have face more recalls and backorders than ever. There is no way for us to answer a question quite as broad as this because there are many safe items that are made in China, but there could be items that are not safe as well. The best way to keep on top of what is recalled is to check the FDA website at <http://www.fda.gov/safety/recalls/default.htm>. The list changes several times a day but it is certainly a great stop to get the most up to date information possible.



Marching for Mutts is the first Sunday in October. We will be there to support the homeless animals in our local area. Won't you come join us for a day of family fun?

Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened.

~Anatole France