



# Blocked Cats

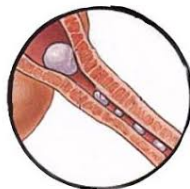


## Blocked Cat - what does it mean?

When your vet team refers to “blocked” cats, they are referring to blockage of the urethra. This can be a complete or partial blockage, and there are different ways a urethra can become blocked. This condition is considered an **EMERGENCY!!!** If left untreated, it is life threatening.

## Causes of obstruction

- Urinary crystals
- Mucus plug
- Tumors



## Is my cat at risk?

- **Male cats** – male cats have long narrow urethras making it easier for obstructive material to get lodged (female urethras are shorter and wider)
- **Pre-existing urinary conditions** – urinary tract infections, urinary crystals, generalized feline lower urinary tract disease
- **Stress** – it has been well documented that stressed cats are prone to developing lower urinary tract disease
- **Obesity**

## Signs to watch for

- Not able to pass urine (or very little if partially blocked)
- Frequent attempts to urinate, possibly inside and outside the litterbox
- Yowling/crying when trying to urinate
- Hiding
- Constant licking of genitals

## Treatment

- Urinary catheter placement and urethra flush under sedation or general anesthetic
- Hospitalization for a few days with urinary catheter and IV fluids
- Once cat is able to urinate on their own, they are discharged with medication and a urinary diet

## Prevention

- **Weight management** – keep your cat at an ideal body weight (we can help you determine what that should be!)
- **Hydration** – always have fresh water available. If your cat isn't interested in drinking water, try larger bowls, fountains, or running the tap
- **Reduce household stress**
  - Lots of litterboxes (one more than number of cats in the home)
  - Lots of enrichment – toys, scratching posts, food puzzles, quality time with owners
  - Feliway – feline pheromone spray or diffuser that can help mitigate stress
- **Treating early signs of urinary tract disease** – *if you see ANY abnormalities in your cat's bathroom habits book an appointment with your vet!* It is much easier and safer to treat urinary disease BEFORE your cat becomes blocked.