

# Urinary Tract Infection (UTI)

**Urinary tract infections (UTI)** are a common urinary issue in our pets. Bacteria can enter the urinary tract up the urethra, and migrate up to the bladder. If a pet that is usually house-trained starts having accidents, it could be a sign of a bladder infection.

## Understanding and Treating UTIs in Pets Common Clinical Signs



Bloody and/or cloudy urine



Straining or whimpering during urination



Accidents in the house



Needing to be let outside more frequently



Licking around the urinary opening



Fever

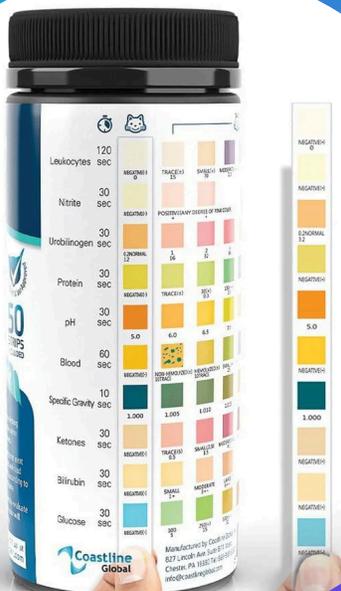


No symptoms

## How does my pet get a urinary tract infection?

Urinary tract infections (UTIs) can affect any animal, but **females** are more likely to get them because their urethra is shorter, so bacteria don't have to travel as far. Pets that have frequent skin infections near their genitals, allergies, or lick themselves a lot may also be more prone to UTIs.

Dogs and cats with diabetes are at higher risk because sugar (glucose) is present in their urine, and bacteria thrive in sugar. Animals with bladder stones are also more likely to develop UTIs.



## Diagnosis

A urinalysis is a routine test that checks urine for the presence of bacteria, inflammatory cells, pH, concentration, blood and protein. If your pet is being treated for multiple urinary tract infections, or the signs are not improving with treatment, a urine culture may be performed.



## How can I prevent my pet from getting UTIs?

UTIs may be a one-time event for your pet. However, if they are recurrent, a diet change may be recommended to promote urinary tract health. There are supplements that can also be given for bladder health. Sometimes medications to alter the urine pH may be necessary. Your veterinarian will discuss your pet's options with you depending on their situation.



## Treatment

**Not all UTIs are equal!** There are common organisms that are seen, but there is a long list of possible bacteria that can cause infection in the bladder.

**Escherichia coli (E.coli)** is the most common bacteria found in dogs with UTIs, since this bacteria is normally found in the feces. Additionally, some bacteria become resistant, and no longer respond to appropriate antibiotics. Your pet will be started on **antibiotics** (usually the most commonly prescribed medications for a UTI).

**Anti-inflammatory** and **pain medications** may be prescribed depending on the severity. A **diet change** may also be recommended to promote urinary tract health. It is important to recheck the urinalysis after finishing the antibiotics to make sure the infection has cleared. Some infections do not clear with a single round of antibiotics, or we discover that there is more than one organism or an inappropriate response (e.g. resistant bacteria).



Feel free to call us at 671-646-CARE (2273) during business hours. Our after-hour's care contact number is 671-929-4904 and then follow the instructions.