

Lake Country Veterinary Care Newsletter



August 2009

Let's Discuss Urinary Tract Infections

One of the more common conditions we see is a urinary tract infection. Why certain dogs/cats have this problem can sometimes be explained but not always. Some of the early symptoms can be frequent urination, blood in the urine, painful urination, or simply having accidents in the house. Any breed or gender is open for UTI's. Typically diagnosis begins with a urinalysis which includes a multidiagnostic reagent strip. These test strips include blood detection, pH, protein, glucose, ketones and more. A sample is also spun down in a centrifuge and the sediment is examined microscopically. We look to confirm blood cells, crystals, bacteria, and etc. A culture of the urine might be required. That is when the lab actually cultures a sample of the urine and grows it in an incubator to discover what kind of bacteria is causing the problem and which antibiotics that bacteria is sensitive to.

Urinary tract infections are treated with antibiotics. Some of the reasons they reoccur are failure to give the entire regiment of antibiotics, bacteria resistant to the antibiotics or an underlying condition.

Other diseases that can cause similar signs in pets include bladder stones, bladder cancer, and prostatitis. Bladder infections generally do not cause fever or other general signs of disease. Infections of the kidney, however, can cause fever, pain, loss of appetite, depression, and other more severe symptoms. Animals with a compromised immune system may also present urinary tract infections.

Another very common complaint from our patient's owners is itchiness. This can also be very complex. The amount of itchiness or the itch threshold is relative to the severity of problems. Very common causes for itchiness are parasites (fleas and mites), food allergy, dry skin and secondary bacterial infections. When an animal is slightly affected by an allergy, the itch may not be severe enough to scratch continually. If another complication is added, the itch threshold is decreased and they scratch more. Then the situation escalates! The pet can end up with a secondary bacterial infection from scratching too hard. For example, if a pet is allergic to flea saliva and a flea bites the pet, he/she may be slightly itchy. If the same pet is allergic to mold and is exposed to mold, the itch increases. Depending upon the severity of the allergy, continuous itching may cause a severe skin reaction with inflammation and a bacterial infection. Add dry air from winter heat (or another source) into the mix and we have real issues! As I mentioned earlier, itchiness can be very complicated. The process of elimination can

be time consuming but may also be productive. Also, treating the symptoms can be a relief and it may be the only answer. Please do not hesitate to call us if you have any questions!

We Appreciate Your Referrals!

*A \$10 Credit will be added to your account for referring others to Lake Country Vet.
Thank you for your support!*

Let's Talk About:

♦ Common Conditions

PLEASE VOTE!!

Again this year we have be voted onto the A-List. The A-List is a Milwaukee premier image-based guide, featuring detailed descriptions, photos and customer recommendations on hundreds of local businesses. The contest runs August 3rd- Sept. 27th, 2009. Please go to WISN.com, A-List, Veterinarians and find Lake Country Veterinary Care. There it will tell you how to vote for us as best business of 2009. Thank you for your support and tell others to vote too!!



Baby Anna and Ella