

Bladder Problems Explained

Family Matters

One of the most common reasons pets visit the vet is because something isn't quite right when they urinate.

Perhaps they're asking to go outside more often.

Straining to pass urine.

Having accidents in the house.

Or you may have noticed blood in the urine.

These signs are often worrying, but they don't all mean the same thing.

At Amity, we believe bladder problems are best managed by understanding **the underlying cause**, not simply treating the symptoms. Our purpose is to **Empower You Through Education**, helping you understand what may be happening and why we recommend certain tests and treatments.

What Causes Bladder Problems?

There are many possible causes, including:

- Urinary tract infections.
- Bladder stones.
- Bladder inflammation (cystitis).
- Stress-related bladder disease, especially in cats.
- Bladder tumours.
- Anatomical abnormalities.
- Problems affecting the kidneys or nervous system.

Although these conditions can produce very similar symptoms, the treatment for each is completely different.

That's why finding the cause is so important.

What Signs Should I Look For?

Common signs include:

- Passing urine more frequently.
- Straining to urinate.
- Passing only small amounts.

- Blood in the urine.
- Urinating in unusual places.
- Licking around the genital area.
- Discomfort when urinating.

Some pets become quieter, lose their appetite or seem generally unwell.

A Blocked Cat Is an Emergency

If your **male cat** is repeatedly straining to urinate but produces little or no urine, this is a genuine emergency.

A blocked bladder can become life-threatening within a short period of time.

If you suspect your cat cannot pass urine, contact a veterinary practice **immediately**.

Early treatment saves lives.

Why Does My Vet Want a Urine Sample?

Urine contains an enormous amount of information.

Examining it helps us look for:

- Infection.
- Blood.
- Crystals.
- Glucose.
- Protein.
- Kidney function.
- Urine concentration.

Sometimes we may also recommend sending the urine to a laboratory to identify bacteria and determine which antibiotics are most effective.

Depending on the findings, blood tests, X-rays or ultrasound may also be recommended.

Why Not Just Prescribe Antibiotics?

Many people assume bladder problems are always caused by infection.

In reality, this isn't the case.

For example, **most bladder problems in cats are not caused by bacterial infections**, so antibiotics often won't help.

Likewise, bladder stones or tumours require completely different treatment.

Good medicine means identifying the cause before deciding on the treatment.

Prevention Is Often Possible

Some bladder conditions can be helped by:

- Encouraging water intake.
- Feeding an appropriate diet.
- Maintaining a healthy weight.
- Reducing stress, particularly in cats.
- Managing underlying medical conditions.

We'll discuss any preventative measures that are appropriate for your pet's specific condition.

Understanding Leads to Better Care

Bladder problems can be uncomfortable, frustrating and, occasionally, life-threatening.

The good news is that most can be managed very successfully once we understand what's causing them.

At Amity, we'll explain every finding, discuss every option and help you choose the treatment that's right for your pet.

Because we're not simply treating a bladder.

We're helping your pet return to a comfortable, happy life.

Because they're not just your pet.

They're family.

Family Matters.

If you need more information, book an appointment with an Amity vet. We're here to Empower You Through Education and help you become your pet's greatest advocate.