



勝利動物醫院
Victory Animal Hospital

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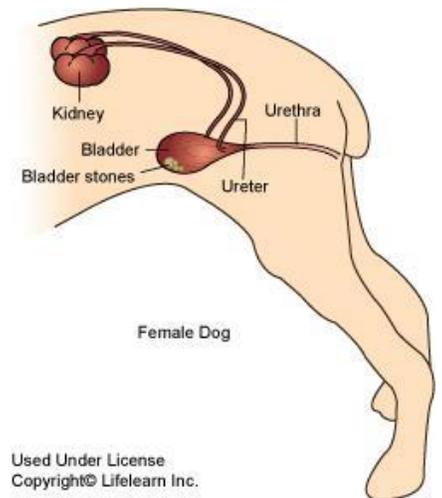
Cystitis in Dogs

What is cystitis?

By definition cystitis means inflammation of the bladder, and the term is used as a general description for any disease that causes inflammation.

What causes cystitis?

A number of diseases and conditions can cause the inflammation that is called cystitis. The most common cause of cystitis in dogs is an infection caused by bacteria. Other common causes include bladder stones, tumors or polyps in the bladder, and abnormal anatomy (especially in female dogs). Some dogs will experience interstitial or "sterile cystitis", a condition that causes inflammation and associated clinical signs without any infection.



What are the clinical signs of cystitis?

The most common clinical sign is *hematuria* or blood in the urine. Cystitis causes discomfort and pain. Dogs with cystitis may spend several minutes squatting and straining (straining is called *dysuria*) to produce only a small amount of urine, and they may urinate more frequently than normal (called *pollakiuria*). Many pet owners report observing their pet squatting frequently and dribbling little spots of urine in multiple locations.

How is cystitis diagnosed?

A history of hematuria, dysuria, and pollakiuria is strong evidence of some form of cystitis. When any or all of these symptoms are seen, several tests are appropriate.

The first group of tests includes urinalysis, urine culture, and bladder palpation (feeling with the fingers). A **urinalysis** consists of several tests to detect abnormalities in the urine and urine sediment. These are generally adequate to confirm cystitis, but they may not tell us the exact cause. A **urine culture and sensitivity** determines if bacteria are present and what antibiotics are likely to be effective in killing them. This is often indicated because bacteria cause most cases of cystitis in the dog and usually eliminated easily with the appropriate antibiotic.

What is done if cystitis is present, but the culture is negative for bacteria and bladder stones cannot be felt?

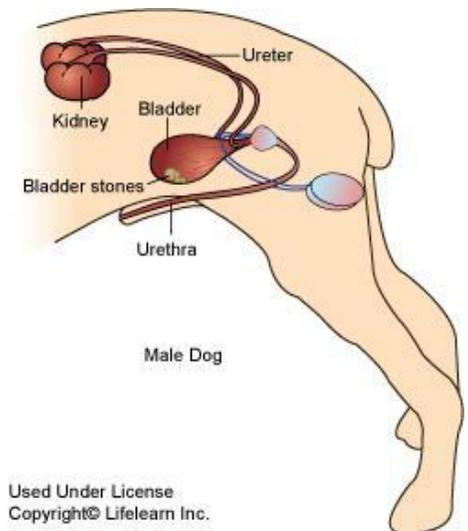
This scenario occurs about 20% of the time. When it happens, it is important that more tests be performed so that a diagnosis can be achieved.

Bladder radiographs (x-rays) are taken to evaluate the bladder for common types of bladder stones.

An **ultrasound** examination is extremely useful in evaluating the bladder. This technique uses sound waves to visualize stones as well as some tumors and polyps. It may also identify other abnormalities of the bladder wall, including wall thickening.

Contrast radiographs of the bladder are taken when plain radiographs and/or an ultrasound examination do not provide a diagnosis.

If a dog shows other signs of illness, such as increased production of urine, fever, poor appetite, or lethargy, cystitis may be a symptom of a more serious problem. These dogs should be evaluated for systemic diseases and bleeding disorders.



How is cystitis treated?

Treatment is based on the cause. Bacterial infections are generally treated with antibiotics. Some bladder stones can be dissolved with special diets while others require surgical removal. Benign bladder polyps can usually be surgically removed, but malignant bladder tumors are difficult to treat successfully.

In the initial stages of treatment, many cases of cystitis require pain relief or anti-inflammatory medications to relieve discomfort and improve urine outflow. Once the discomfort is relieved, many patients with cystitis benefit from increased water consumption, either by drinking more water or eating a moist diet, which will dilute the urine and help flush out bacteria, inflammatory debris, and dissolved crystals.

Your veterinarian will discuss the appropriate tests and treatments necessary to return your pet to normal health as soon as possible.

This client information sheet is based on material written by: Ernest Ward, DVM

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