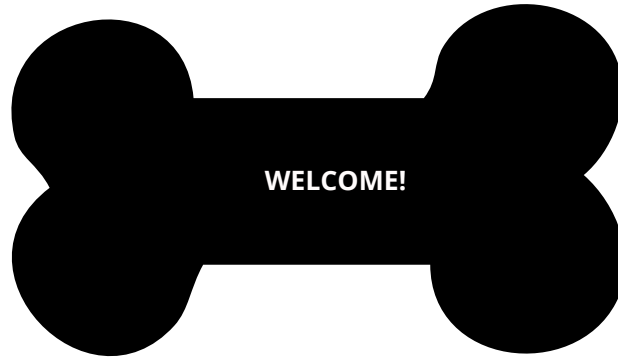


PRAIRIE PAW PRINTS

Crookston Pet Clinic's Newsletter



Happy New Year! **Our office is open and we welcome 1 guest in per appointment, but our doors will remain locked. We will continue to provide curbside service if requested.**

If you have any information you'd like to submit, or perhaps a topic you'd like to see talked about, please send it to us via email at crookstonpetclinic@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you and providing you with information that you WANT to know about!

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DR. LEAH'S CORNER



Did you know?



The term veterinarian comes from the Latin world, *veterinae* means 'working with animals'.

Dr. Leah's Corner

I am an advocate for animals.

I tell you when your pet is overweight because I know what extra fat does to the organ systems and life expectancy. I know what kind of pain that brings. I tell you when your pet has dental disease because I know what chronic infection does to the organ systems and life expectancy. I know what kind of pain that brings. I tell you to groom your pet because I know that is the most thorough skin check he or she will ever get. I tell you to handle and socialize your puppies and kittens

like crazy because I know what kind of emotional and physical stress it is to be fearful. I know that a fearful animal is more likely to bite and this could result in euthanasia. I know what kind of pain that brings. **I am an advocate for animals.**



Spay/ Neuter Your Pet

By spaying or neutering your pet, you'll help control the pet homelessness crisis, which results in millions of healthy dogs and cats being euthanized in the United States each year simply because there aren't enough homes to go around. There are also medical and behavioral benefits to spaying (female pets) and neutering (male pets) your animals.



Here are some of the medical benefits :

- **Your female pet will live a longer, healthier life.**
Spaying helps prevent uterine infections and breast tumors, which are malignant or cancerous in about 50 percent of dogs and 90 percent of cats. Spaying your pet before her first heat cycle offers the best protection from these diseases.
- **Neutering your male companion prevents testicular cancer and some prostate problems.**

And some behavioral benefits :

- **Your spayed female won't go into heat.**
While cycles can vary, female felines usually go into heat four to five days every three weeks during breeding season. In an effort to advertise for mates, they'll yowl and urinate more frequently- sometimes all over the house!
- **Your male dog will be less likely to roam away from home.**

An intact male will do just about anything to find a mate, including finding creative ways to escape from the house. Once he's free to roam, he risks injury in traffic and fights with other male animals.

- **Your neutered male may be better behaved.**

Unneutered dogs and cats are more likely to mark their territory by spraying strong-smelled urine all over the house. Your dog might be less likely to mount other dogs, people and inanimate objects after he's neutered. Some aggression problems may be avoided by early neutering.

- **Spaying / neutering your pets is also highly cost - effective.**

The cost of your pet's spay / neuter surgery is far less than the cost of having and caring for a litter.

Debunking Spay / Neuter Myths and Misconceptions

- **Spaying or Neutering will not cause your pet to become overweight.**

Lack of exercise and overfeeding will cause your pet to pack on the extra pounds - not neutering. Your pet will remain fit and trim as long as you continue to provide exercise and monitor their food intake.

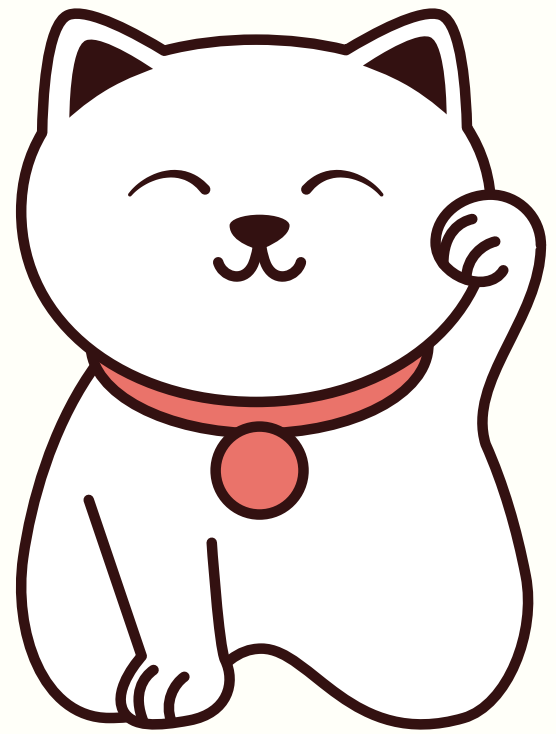
- **Neutering is not a quick fix for all behavioral problems.**

Although neutering your pet often reduces undesirable behaviors caused by a higher level of testosterone, there's no guarantee that your dog's behavior will change after he's neutered. Although the surgery will reduce the amount of testosterone in your dog's system, it won't eliminate the hormone completely. Neutering will also not reduce behaviors that your pet has learned or that have become habitual. The effects of neutering are largely dependent on your dog's individual personality, physiology and history.



- **When to Spay or Neuter Your Pet**

For Dogs : While the traditional age for neutering is six to nine months, puppies as young as eight weeks old can be neutered. Dogs can be neutered as adults as well, although there's a slightly higher risk of post - operative complications in older dogs, dogs that are overweight or dogs that have health problems.



For Cats

It is generally considered safe for kittens as young as eight weeks old to be spayed or neutered. In animal shelters, surgery is often preformed at this time so the kitten can be sterilized prior to adoption. In an effort to avoid the start of urine spraying and eliminate the chance for pregnancy, it's advisable to schedule the surgery before your cat reaches five months of age. It's possible to spay a female cat while she's in heat.

Helping Your Pet Before and After Surgery

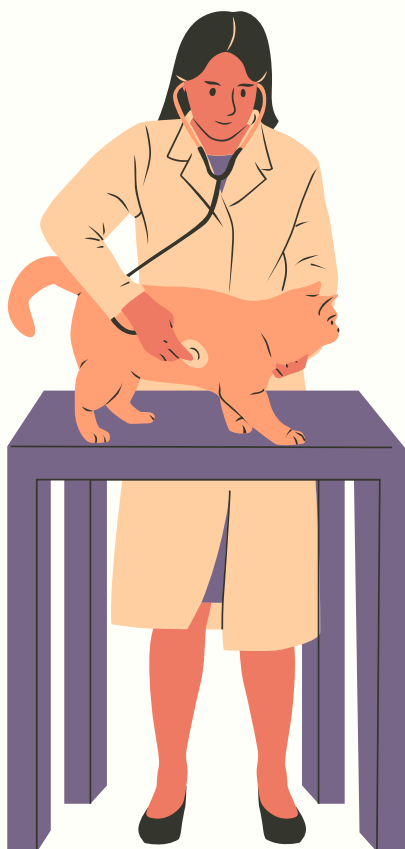
Your Veterinary clinic will provide pre-surgical advice that you should follow. In general, avoid giving your pet any food after midnight the night before surgery. Your veterinarian can also provide post- operative instructions for you to follow. Although your pet may experience some discomfort after surgery, your veterinarian can take various measures to control pain. Depending on the procedure performed, medication for pain may be sent home with your pet.

Here are tips for a safe and comfortable recovery :

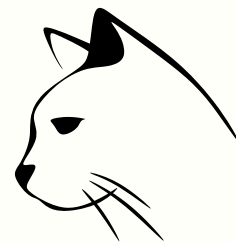
- Provide your pet with a quiet place to recover indoors and away from other animals.
- Prevent your pet from running and jumping for up to two weeks following surgery, or as long as your veterinarian recommends.
- Prevent your pet from licking the incision site, which may cause infection, by distracting your pet with treats or by using an Elizabethan collar.
- Avoid bathing your pet for at least ten days after surgery.
- Check the incision site daily to confirm proper healing.

If you notice and redness, swelling or discharge at the surgery site, or if the incision is open, please contact your veterinarian. Also call your veterinarian if your pet is lethargic, has a decreased appetite, is vomiting or has diarrhea or any other concerns following surgery.

This article was written by ASPCA, for more information go to [aspca.org](https://www.asPCA.org)



Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease



What is Feline lower urinary tract disease?

Feline lower urinary tract disease (FLUTD) describes a variety of conditions that affect the bladder and urethra of cats. Cats with FLUTD most often show signs of difficulty and pain when urinating, increase frequency of urination, and blood in the urine. Cats with FLUTD also tend to lick themselves excessively and may urinate outside the litter box, often on cool, smooth surfaces like a tile floor or a bathtub.

While FLUTD can occur at any age, it is usually seen in middle-aged, overweight cats that get little exercise, use an indoor litter box, have little or no outdoor access, or eat a dry diet. Factors such as emotional or environment stress, multi-cat households and abrupt changes in daily routine may also increase the risk that a cat will develop FLUTD.

Major signs of feline lower urinary tract disease include:

- Straining to urinate
- Urinating small amounts
- Frequent and/ or prolonged attempts to urinate
- Crying out while urinating
- Excessive licking of the genital area
- Urinating outside the litter box
- Blood in urine

Note that cats with a urethral obstruction (a blockage in the urethra, which is the tube that carries urine from the bladder and out of the body) will also show these signs but will pass little to no urine and become increasingly distressed.

Urethral obstruction is seen more often in males than female cats due to their longer, narrow urethra. A urethral obstruction is an emergency and requires immediate veterinary treatment.

How is FLUTD diagnosed?

Because FLUTD has many causes, it can be difficult to diagnose. Based on your cat's symptoms your veterinarian will do a physical examination and most likely will run a urinalysis assessing urine pH and concentration and presence of crystals, bleeding, inflammation and infection. If the cause is still not identified, tests such as urine culture, x-rays, blood work and additional urine tests may be recommended.

What are the causes of FLUTD?

Urolithiasis (urinary stones)

Factors such as emotional or environment stress, multi - cat households, and abrupt changes in daily routine may also increase the risk that the cat will develop FLUTD. One possible cause of FLUTD is the formation of urinary stones, also called uroliths, in the bladder and / or urethra. These are collections of minerals that form in the urinary tract of cats. X - Rays or ultrasounds are usually needed to diagnose urinary stones. The most commonly seen uroliths are calcium oxalate and struvite (magnesium ammonium phosphate). While a special diet can be prescribed to dissolve struvite stones, calcium oxalate stones need to be removed surgically. If the diet fails, or if the stones form again, then surgery may be necessary for struvite stones. In female cats, it may also be possible for a veterinarian to help a cat pass stones by flushing its bladder with sterile fluids or remove small stones directly from the bladder using a cystoscope when the cat is under anesthesia. A veterinarian may then recommend medication or dietary changes after surgery to help prevent recurrence.

Urinary infection

Infection in your cat's urinary tract with bacteria, fungi, parasites or possibly even viruses can cause signs of FLUTD. Although bacterial infections are more common than fungal, parasitic or viral infections, they are still relatively uncommon in cats. If an infection is found your veterinarian will probably look for another disease or problem that may have put your cat at risk of infection. For example, uroliths and diabetes can increase the risk of urinary tract infection.

Urethral Obstruction

The most serious problem associated with urinary function is when a cat's urethra becomes partly or totally blocked. These cats strain to urinate and produce little or no urine. It can appear that the cat is constipated and straining to pass stool, but straining in the litter box is more often a sign of urethral obstruction. Urethral obstruction is potentially a life - threatening condition caused by either urethral stones or by urethral plugs (the latter are made of a soft material containing minerals, cells, and mucus - like protein).

Cats with urethral obstruction must receive immediate veterinary care. Male cats (neutered or intact) are at greater risk for urethral obstruction than females because their urethra is longer and narrower. This is a true medical emergency, and any cat suspected of suffering from this condition must receive immediate veterinary attention. Once the urethra becomes completely blocked, the kidneys are no longer able to remove toxins from the blood or maintain a balance of fluids and electrolytes in the blood. Without treatment, death frequently occurs when these imbalances lead to heart failure - often in less than twenty - four to forty - eight hours.

Treatment of this condition involves dislodging the obstruction, usually accomplished by flushing a sterile solution through a narrow tube placed into the urethra. Once the obstruction is removed further treatment depends upon the condition of the cat. Dehydration and electrolyte imbalances are treated with intravenous fluid treatment. Antibiotics may be given to prevent or treat infection, and drugs that help restore bladder function are sometimes recommended.

For cats who continue to experience urethral obstruction despite medical treatment, there is a surgical procedure called a perineal urethrostomy. Since side effects of this surgery can include bleeding, narrowing at the surgical site, urinary incontinence and a greater incidence of urinary tract infection, it is usually considered only as a last resort.

What can I do at home to prevent future occurrences of FLUTD?

Depending on the underlying cause for FLUTD, the clinical signs may never, or only occasionally, reoccur. However, recurrence is more common with FIC. to help reduce the chances of recurrence :

- Feed small meals on a frequent basis.
- Consult with your veterinarian about the best diet for your cat. Many commercial diets are acceptable, but some urinary conditions respond better to specialized diets. Canned food may be preferred.
- Provide clean, fresh water at all times.
- Provide an adequate number of litter boxes (usually one more than the number of cats in the household) with the type of litter that the cat (s) prefer.
- Keep litter boxes clean - they should be scooped twice a day and the litter changed weekly (or more often as needed).
- Minimize major changes in routine.
- Reduce stress.

Article written by AVMA; for more information go to avma.org



Upcoming Closure Dates

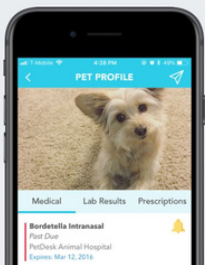
January 27th & 28th

We have Rebates!

We have rebates for both Bravecto (flea and tick preventative) and Iverheat Max (heartworm preventative). Stop in to check out the savings!

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience regarding scheduling! We have been very busy, with that being said if your pet needs updated vaccinations please call about two weeks prior.

Thank you for your patience!
Crookston Pet Clinic Staff



Download PetDesk for Free in the App and Google Play Store!

Make sure to use the email your veterinary provider has on record when you sign-up.



Request Appointment

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