



Ultimate Veterinary Clinic Newsletter

ISSUE NO. 11

Autumn time



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Our core values:

- The well-being of you and your pets
- To provide high quality medicine and surgery
- Honest and reliable vet care
- Continually updating our knowledge and services
- Striving to build a long term partnership with you and your pets

Our facilities and services include:

- Routine veterinary consultations, vaccinations and microchipping.
- Small Animal surgical facilities; elective & orthopedics.
- In-house diagnostics; pathology, ultrasonography, digital radiology.
- Quarantine
- Pet food and other pet supplies

Welcome to Ultimate Vet Clinics Autumn edition newsletter

We are very excited to say that each season we will be able to email you all the latest clinic news, special offers, upcoming events, and any clinic promotions and discounts.

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Ultimate Vet welcomes any suggestions or ideas of things you would like to see in our newsletters. If you have anything to share, drop us a line at info@ultimatevet.com.au and we'll see what we can do for you.

We appreciate your feedback



Kidney and bladder problems in our pets are often a cause for concern as many vital organs are involved.

If your pet is having issues with urination – either because it's happening too much, too little or there's something a bit strange going on – it is important to have it checked out. One of the diagnoses could be stones in the bladder or any part of the urinary system. If we catch it early on, we can get on top of it with a combination of medication and diets however the danger lies in the potential for stones to cause a blockage. This is an emergency.

Some signs to look out for are:

- Your pet's behaviour,
- Spending too long trying to pass urine,
- Straining,
- Trying to go out to the loo more frequently than usual,
- Signs of abdominal pain, hunched back, stiffness, stretching out, pain when picked up,
- Loss of appetite or vomiting (along with the above signs),
- Blood in urine,
- Pus/cloudy
- Only passing small droplets
- Passing none at all

At the vets, we'll do a thorough physical exam and test the urine. Depending on your pet's signs and the history, we may prescribe some treatment straight away or do further testing such as x-rays and blood tests.

We can usually diagnose tiny urine crystals during your visit, however larger bladder stones can only be seen by x-rays or ultrasound. We also check the urine's acidity levels, presence of glucose, blood, infection and we can also assess some kidney function. Just like in humans there can be many different types of crystals and stones and they are managed in different ways. Factors that influence the development of stones include genes, the concentration of the stone components in the urine, urine pH (acidity), and the presence of bacterial infections.

If there are only some tiny crystals in the urine, we normally recommend a course of antibiotics and a permanent diet change. The urine can be modified using the diet to dissolve crystals and help prevent their formation. We recommend follow up urine tests to monitor the progress of the disease.

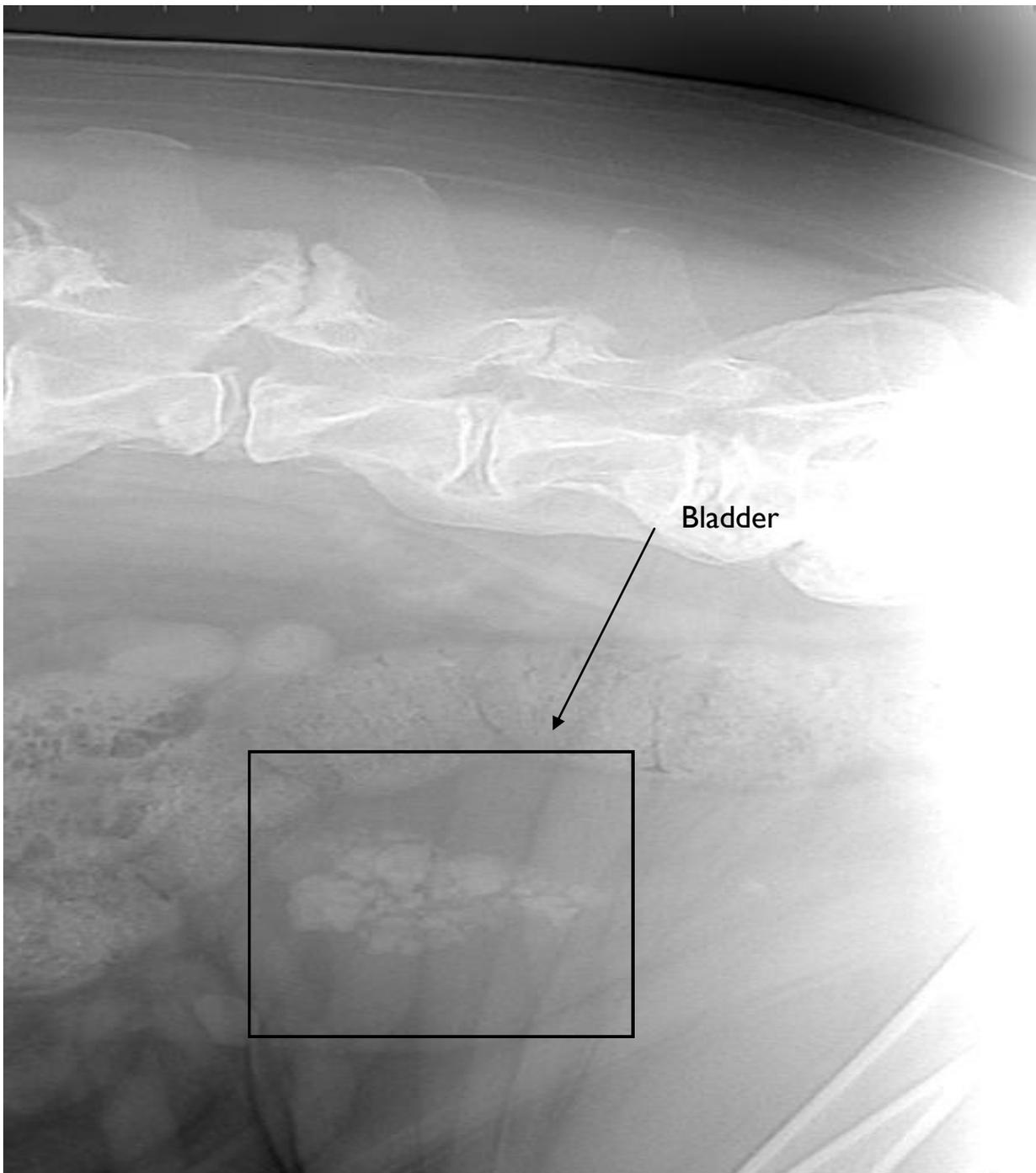
If there are large stones, sometimes these cause serious blockages and surgery can be an option.

If you notice any changes in the urination habits of your pet, it would be best to bring them down to see us. We will investigate the causes and work out the best treatment plan for your pet.

Guess how many bladder stones???

Email your answers to info@ultimatevet.com.au

Closest guess wins a prize.





Chocolate toxicity in dogs

Around Easter, chocolate is in abundance in many households and unsurprisingly, This is the number one time of the year that vets see chocolate toxicity cases. Prevention is better than cure, so please ensure all chocolate is kept hidden away to ensure your dogs are not harmed.

Chocolate is also toxic to cats, but they don't tend to go for it.

The main component that causes problems is theobromine, A naturally occurring stimulant found in the cocoa bean. Theobromine is easily digestible in humans, but the dog's digestive system cannot break it down and it becomes toxic. It affects the central nervous system and the heart, putting their system into a state of panic. Symptoms range from vomiting, diarrhoea, restlessness and rapid breathing. These symptoms can then progress to muscle tremors, abnormal heart rhythm, raised body temperature and in severe cases, seizures and death.

The effects of chocolate poisoning usually appear within four hours and can last as long as 24 hours.

The amount of toxic theobromine varies with the type of chocolate. The darker and the more bitter the chocolate, the more dangerous it is to your pets. Cooking or baking chocolate and high quality dark chocolate contains higher amounts whilst, milk chocolate (commonly used in Easter eggs) has less and white chocolate barely poses any threat of chocolate poisoning. The amount of fat and sugar in white chocolate, however, can still make a dog very sick and result in conditions such as pancreatitis! This means that for a medium size dog, weighing about 20kg it would take only 25grams of baker's or dark chocolate and 250grams of milk chocolate to potentially show signs of poisoning. (Approximate figures)

If you have seen or suspect your dog has eaten chocolate, contact your vet immediately, or the local emergency vet if it is after hours. If you are advised to bring your dog in, get there as soon as possible. The vet may give medication to induce vomiting to remove as much chocolate from the stomach as possible. Medications may also be given to absorb and inactivate any remaining chocolate. If your dog has eaten chocolate too long ago and showing severe symptoms, it may need to be hospitalised for a few days. Please do NOT attempt to induce vomiting in your dog at home as you can make your dog more ill.





Is your pet trying to loose weight? Do you feel guilty not being able to feed yummy treats?

Introducing:

New hills prescription diet metabolic treats!

- Comes in dog or cat food
- Helps to control hunger by keeping pets feeling full and satisfied between meals
- Designed to complement the nutrition found in Hill's Prescription Diet Metabolic Advanced Weight Solution pet food
- Great taste and highly palatable backed by a 100% refund guarantee

