

# Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease

Brought to you by Hill's Pet Nutrition



Your cat has been diagnosed with feline lower urinary tract disease (FLUTD). Your veterinarian has authorized you to purchase Hill's Prescription Diet c/d Multicare Stress.

You may have noticed the following signs prior to this diagnosis: frequent urination, straining to urinate, vocalizing while urinating, bloody urine, and urinating outside the litter box.

## Complications of FLUTD

Your cat should be monitored for signs of urethral obstruction (UO; ie, when the urethra is blocked); this is typically a problem in male cats due to their narrower urethra.

- ▶ UO is a medical emergency that occurs when plugs, which can contain crystals, stones, and/or protein, form and clog the urethra. When your cat is unable to urinate, the bladder stretches to accommodate an increasing volume of urine. If left untreated, the bladder may rupture.
- ▶ It is likely your veterinarian will have evaluated your cat for UO already, but, even if it was not diagnosed, it is possible that it could occur in the future.
- ▶ If your cat strains to urinate with very little to no urine, he/she may have developed UO and should be evaluated by a veterinarian; contact your veterinarian immediately for further instruction.

## How to Better Manage Stress in the Home

Stress may play an important role in cats with FLUTD, and making changes around your home to relieve stress are important.

- ▶ **Litter box.** You should ideally have one litter box per cat, plus an additional. Litter boxes should be placed in easily accessible areas and separated from water bowls and feeding areas; they should also be placed in separate rooms to allow private time for cats whose housemates may interrupt them. Litter boxes should also be scooped and cleaned regularly (ie, at least once a day).
- ▶ **A healthy environment.**
  - Secluded places (eg, high perches, boxes/beds where your

cat can hide) can help relieve stress.

- Create multiple stations with separate food and water bowls and toys. This is especially important in multicat households to prevent resource guarding.
- The amount of time that you play with your cat and the number and types of toys in your home should be increased. Interactive toys, food puzzles, and scratching posts are great ways for your cat to play, even if your cat is declawed.
- Use scent-free detergents and cleaning supplies, and avoid introducing new or unpleasant-smelling objects to your home. Scent is important to how cats perceive their environment, and unusual or unpleasant smells can cause stress.

## Feeding Instructions

- ▶ Your cat should be transitioned to Hill's Prescription Diet c/d Multicare Stress over 7 days according to the following recommended schedule and ratios, with the new food and previous food in different bowls: days 1 and 2, 75% the previous food and 25% the new food; days 3 and 4, 50% previous and 50% new; days 5 and 6, 25% previous and 75% new; and day 7, 100% the new food. Once your cat is transitioned to the new food, he/she should not eat any other food or treats unless approved by your veterinarian. Feeding other foods and treats can decrease the food's effectiveness and cause symptom recurrence.
- ▶ Ask your veterinarian if other cats in your household are able to eat Prescription Diet c/d Multicare Stress. If the other cats are healthy and not eating another prescription food, it is typically okay to feed them the food as well.
- ▶ Increasing your cat's water consumption is important to reducing FLUTD recurrence. Providing additional water bowls are great ways to encourage this. Encouraging your cat to eat canned c/d Multicare Stress in addition to dry is ideal if they prefer stew forms over kibble. You can also mix in a small amount of water with the canned food to further increase water consumption.
- ▶ If there is an issue with the food you have purchased, contact Hill's Pet Nutrition at 1-800-445-5777 or [hillspet.com/contact-us](http://hillspet.com/contact-us).

Your cat's next appointment should be scheduled in \_\_\_\_\_ days/weeks.

Your veterinarian may want to recheck your cat's urine, so they should come in with a full bladder. As best you can, prevent your cat from urinating within a few hours of the appointment by removing the litter box or keeping them in a room without one, if this won't cause too much stress.