



Blocked-Cat Emergency Card

The signs that mean go now, the clock, and your vet's numbers to hand

PETSLIKEMINE
URINARY HEALTH

CAT NAME

VET PRACTICE

OUT-OF-HOURS NUMBER

A male cat that cannot pass urine is a life-threatening emergency. A blocked bladder can make a cat critically ill within about a day, and owners often mistake it for constipation or a simple urine infection and wait. This card is for the fridge: know the signs, and keep your vet's numbers where everyone can find them.

RING THE VET NOW, TODAY OR OUT-OF-HOURS, IF YOUR CAT IS

straining in the tray and passing little or nothing, going in and out of the tray over and over, crying or licking the back end, off food, vomiting, hiding, or has a hard, painful belly. In a male cat this can be a blocked bladder, which can be fatal within about a day. Do not wait to see if it passes, and do not give any human medicine.

THE ONE CHECK THAT MATTERS: IS URINE COMING OUT?

- Passing normal clumps of urine: there is a little time, but still see your vet
- A few drops, or clear straining with an empty tray: emergency, especially in a male cat
- Squatting again and again and producing little or nothing: treat as an emergency
- Check the tray before you decide, and again before you leave

WHY IT CANNOT WAIT

When urine cannot get out, the bladder backs up and the waste and potassium it should be clearing build up in the blood within hours to a day. That is what makes a fully blocked cat so quickly, dangerously ill, and why minutes matter.

ON THE WAY TO THE VET

- Phone ahead so they are ready for you, day or night
- Do not give paracetamol, ibuprofen or any human painkiller: they are highly toxic to cats
- Keep your cat calm and warm in a carrier, and go straight in
- Do not try home remedies or wait for morning

OUR CAT'S NORMAL VS TODAY (JOT IT FOR THE VET)

Written and reviewed by Dr Alastair Greenway MRCVS and Claire Greenway BVM&S MRCVS. This sheet explains and records. It does not diagnose or prescribe. Always follow your own vet's instructions.

How to use. Most cats that reach the vet in time are unblocked and go home. The whole game is recognising it early and going now. A safety aid, not a substitute for veterinary advice.

**MALE CAT STRAINING WITH NOTHING OUT
= EMERGENCY, GO NOW**