



BARRINGTON COAST VETS

Diamond Beach Veterinary Clinic

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Urinary Tract Infection

What is a Urinary Tract Infection?

A urinary tract infection (UTI) is a bacterial infection that affects the urinary system—typically the bladder, but sometimes also the urethra or kidneys. UTIs can cause significant discomfort and, if left untreated, may lead to more serious complications.

Common Symptoms of a UTI in Pets:

- Straining or difficulty urinating
- Urinating more frequently or in unusual places
- Blood in the urine
- Licking at the genital area
- Accidents in the house
- Urine with a strong or foul odour
- Signs of discomfort or restlessness

If you notice any of these signs, a veterinary check-up is recommended.



How Do We Diagnose a UTI?

We use several tools to accurately diagnose a UTI and tailor treatment accordingly:

Urinalysis using Sedivue

Our in-house Idexx Sedivue machine allows us to quickly and accurately assess your pet's urine. This machine uses automated microscopy and image recognition software to examine the urine sample for:

- **Bacteria**
- **White blood cells (WBCs)** – a sign of inflammation or infection
- **Red blood cells (RBCs)** – may indicate irritation or bleeding
- **Crystals** – which can contribute to bladder stones
- **Casts** – which may indicate kidney involvement

Sedivue helps us determine whether there are signs consistent with infection or other urinary issues, often within minutes.

Cytology

Cytology involves examining the urine under a microscope by one of our trained veterinary professionals. We look at the types of cells present and bacteria shape or clustering, which helps us determine whether the infection is mild or more complicated, and whether other concerns (such as abnormal cells or crystals) are present.

Urine Culture (if indicated)

In some cases, especially with chronic or recurrent infections, we may send a sample to the lab for urine culture and sensitivity testing. This identifies the exact type of bacteria causing the infection and which antibiotics it responds to best.

Treatment and Management

If a UTI is confirmed, we typically prescribe a course of antibiotics and sometimes anti-inflammatories to ease discomfort. It's important to:

- Complete the full course of medication even if symptoms improve
- Encourage your pet to drink plenty of water
- Provide regular toilet breaks to avoid urine retention

If your pet has an underlying issue (like bladder stones, diabetes, or anatomical changes), we may recommend further testing or management strategies to prevent recurrence.

Follow-Up

A follow-up urine test may be advised at the end of treatment to confirm the infection has fully resolved. This helps us avoid antibiotic resistance and ensures your pet stays healthy.

Prevention Tips:

- Keep fresh water available at all times
- Encourage regular toileting
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Feed a vet-recommended diet, especially if your pet is prone to urinary issues
- Consider routine urinalysis for senior pets or those with a history of UTIs

If you have any concerns about your pet's urinary health, please contact us at Barrington Coast Vets on (02) 6559 2277. Early intervention leads to quicker, more comfortable recovery.

Kind Regards,

The team at Barrington Coast Vets

Diamond Beach NSW