



### Hours of Operation

Mon—Wed: 8am—6pm      Thurs: 8am—8pm  
Fri: 8am—5pm      Sat: 8am—Noon  
**24-Hour Emergency On-Call 7 Days a Week**

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As always, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for trusting us with the care of you and your pets. We are honored that you have chosen us and we will continue to strive for excellent customer service and outstanding medical and surgical treatment!

We also would like to thank everyone who took the time to honestly answer the surveys sent out in November. There were so many great suggestions that will help us to better serve you. Some of the suggestions we really like are separate waiting areas for cats and dogs, a grieving/consultation room, and (of course) a larger waiting area. Some of the more interesting suggestions include a bar, babysitting services, and free Wi-Fi. These suggestions are still under discussion.



Laynie helping us with one of our little piggy patients

The main concern from many people is that by building a bigger clinic we will lose the warm, welcoming atmosphere we have worked so hard to build. Dr. George and Jenni believe that it is not the actual building that makes people feel welcome; the team working in the building make people feel welcome. If you've ever gone somewhere and felt like just another number, the staff working there made you feel that way. While the roof over our heads is growing in order to give our team more room to better serve our patients and clients, our team itself is not changing. We pride ourselves on a team that truly cares and works tirelessly to offer superb client and patient satisfaction. We hope that you can rest assured that we are aware of this concern and that we will do our best to continue welcoming you warmly into a part of our home.

Sincerely,

Simon, Jenni, Elayna, and Lucien George  
And the entire Team of Deerfield Veterinary Clinic



## New Faces of DVC

Erin (pictured left) joined us in August. Erin is currently attending Great Bay Community College and will graduate from the veterinary technician program in May 2012. Erin spends time with her bull terrier Isabella, two cats, and two goats.



Oh, and her husband, Vic. And, in other happy news, Dr. Robyn is expecting her second child in May 2011 (pictured right). We are so excited for the Eldredge family! And, although she will take a little time off, Dr. Robyn is planning on coming back next fall. For more information on Erin and the rest of our team, visit the "Team" section of our web site.

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## Robyn's Reasons:

"I am interested in a horse, but it cribs. What should I do?"

Cribbing, or windsucking, is not only an annoying habit of some horses, but it may be more harmful than people first think. The horse will grab a hold of any object available (hay mangers, feed buckets, stall walls, etc.) with its mouth and bite down while inhaling air. This not only will be destructive to your property, but may cause injury to your horse. The horse's incisors get worn down tremendously. Also, by inhaling air into their gastrointestinal tract, the horse is at an increased risk for colic. There is one particular colic type, epiploic foramen entrapment, which cribbing horses are significantly more likely to get than non-cribbers. This condition is only fixed via colic surgery. There are some horse people out there that believe deeply that cribbing is a learned behavior (this has not been proven) which means one horse may learn to become a cribber by watching another horse crib. Due to this belief, as well as the destruction caused by this behavior, many barn owners will not allow cribbers to board in their facility. Keep all of these factors in mind when deciding to purchase a horse that cribs. Cribbing can potentially be deterred with the use of a cribbing collar, which is a device worn high and tight around a horse's neck. Some horses respond well to this collar, but some still crib while wearing it. There is a surgical procedure that can be performed on cribbers to potentially halt this behavior, however it does not always work.

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**In The News...** Recently, the FDA released a warning against buying pet medication from online pharmacies. While some internet pharmacies are legitimate businesses, the FDA found some who dispense medications without a prescription, sell expired drugs, and sell unapproved pet medication. If you want to purchase medications and supplies online, look for a web site that has been Vet-VIPPS approved. Also, remember that we have most of your pets' medication here in our office or on our online store. For more information on the FDA warning and how to find an accredited website, visit the "In The News" section of our web site.

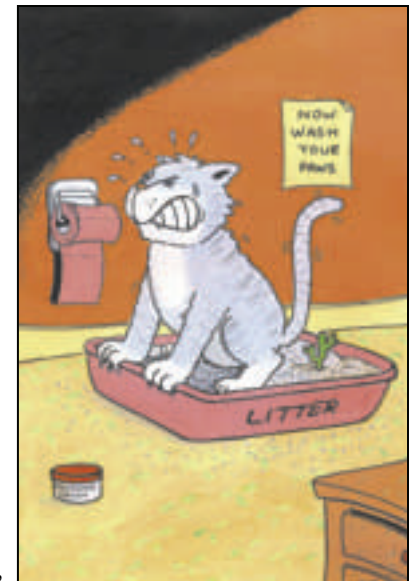
# Disease Spotlight: Feline Urinary Issues

## When is it an emergency?

- Your cat is vocalizing more often than normal
- Your cat is trying to urinate and drops of urine or no urine is coming out
- Your cat is not eating or is more lethargic than normal
- It is more of an emergency in male cats as they block easier than females. If they become blocked, their bladder fills quickly and can rupture which may lead to death.

## Why is this happening?

- **Urinary Tract Infection (UTI)** - This is an infection of the bladder which causes inflammation that leads to straining, bleeding, and frequent urination. A urinalysis can tell if this is the problem which can be treated with antibiotics.
- **Bladder Stones** - Stones form in the bladder from built up minerals and electrolytes that the body is unable to use or eliminate properly. These stones inflame the bladder wall and have similar symptoms as a UTI. However, if left untreated, the stones can cause a blockage leading to the inability to urinate. Treatment could be surgery (if the stones are bad enough) or a change in diet.
- **Feline Idiopathic Cystitis (FIC)** - This is the most common but least understood condition that results in similar symptoms as a UTI. It seems to mostly be related to stress in younger cats. The episodes last around one to two weeks regardless of treatment. So, the best option is to avoid a future episode by minimizing stress.
- **Behavioral** - A small portion of cats will respond to stressful events (moving, new additions to the house, etc.) by urinating inappropriately. A detailed history, physical exam, and urinalysis can help to distinguish between a behavioral problem and a medical condition. In the case of behavioral issues, there are anti-anxiety medications that can be given to reduce stress.

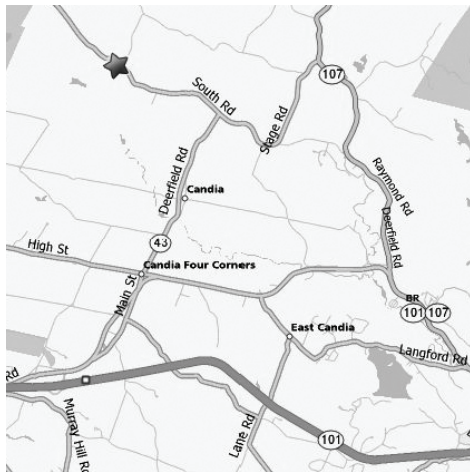


## What can I do to prevent urinary issues?

- In multi-cat households, there should be one litter box per cat plus an extra one. The litter boxes should be spread out around the house.
- Encourage your cat to drink more water by using water bubblers, fountains, or a **little** wet food.
- Cats should have environmental enrichment such as climbing towers, scratching posts, and other toys to mentally stimulate.



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## Laughter Is The Best Medicine

### What is the strangest name for your pet?

- \* Joey Bagadonuts - a rooster
- \* Crispy - an iguana
- \* Q-Tip - a cat who had a black tail with a white tip
- \* NAFTA - a Chihuahua
- \* Lord Chubby Pruneface - a pug

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Dr. George will be speaking on “What to Expect at Your Annual Equine Vet Visit” on Wednesday, February 16 at 6pm at Blue Seal in Londonderry (15 Buttrick Rd.). There will be door prizes and light refreshments available. For more information, call Blue Seal at 432-9546.