

# Belle Mead Animal Hospital

872 Route 206 Hillsborough NJ 08844

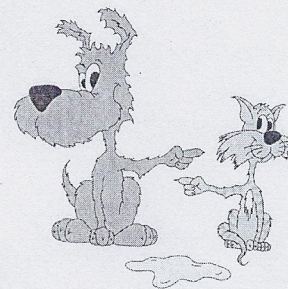
Office 908.874.4447 Fax 908.874.4144

[www.bmvvet.com](http://www.bmvvet.com)

## Urinary Infections & Bladder Stones Is Your Pet at Risk?

Believe it or not-most with Bladder Stones and/or Urinary Tract Infections can live in and out of pain for weeks, months, and even years before their owners even realize their pets are in trouble.

The first symptoms of Bladder Stones or Urinary Tract Infections may simply be that your dog urinates in the house or that your cat urinates outside the litter box. Most people, however, may just clean the mess and blame themselves. However, if your dog or cat never urinates in the house and has an accident, you should assume he/she may have an infection. Bring your veterinarian office a urine sample. If this is not possible, bring your pet in with a full bladder and we can get a sample for you. Remember, pets cannot talk so how else are they going to tell you there is a problem?



We as people know how we feel or if it hurts when we urinate. Your pets will just silently until they cannot anymore.

A urine sample is a very inexpensive test that actually tells us a lot of information about your pet's general health. Dropping off a urine sample can help us find a urinary tract infection before stones develop. A urinalysis can sometimes tell us whether your pet may have problems such as liver disease, kidney disease, high blood pressure, or even risk of developing stones. If we find any abnormalities, we can make fairly comfortable that you are one step ahead of the game. If we find any abnormalities, we can make some simple recommendations that may save your pet from an expensive Bladder Stone surgery.

So you might be asking, "Ok, How do I collect a urine sample and What do I put it in?" It is simple and easy. We can give you a free urine cup anytime. You can also use a clean disposable Tupperware container or lid for collection.

### **The 3 Tricks to Catch a Urine Sample from Your Dog:**

1. Catch a urine sample first thing in the morning when you know your dog has to go. Your dog must be on a leash!
2. Hold the cup in your hand, or just use the lid if you have a small dog who crouches really low to the ground.
3. Once your dog starts to crouch and urinate, **WAIT** 2-3 seconds to catch a midstream urine. (If you go in too early, your dog will stop before your task is complete)

Once you catch the urine, drop it off at the hospital as fresh as possible. (You can put it in the refrigerator for a few hours if needed, but not longer than 6-12 hours if possible)

All your young cats and dogs after their first birthday are susceptible to infections and stones. The average age affected is 1½-4½ years old. Dog breeds especially prone to stones are smaller breeds and mixes such as Bichons, Poodles, Maltese, Yorkies, Schnauzers, Shi-Tzus, Daschunds, and Terriers.

Food is everything when it comes to preventing stones and urinary problems in young cats and dogs. Ask us what food we recommend.