

## Cystitis

### General Information

Cystitis is an inflammation of the urinary bladder, often accompanied by infection. It is usually caused by bacteria that enter the bladder through the external urinary opening (ascending infection). Kidney infections may spread to the bladder (descending infection). Occasionally, infections in other parts of the body spread to the bladder through the bloodstream. Prostatic infection can cause recurring bladder infections in males. Bladder stones (calculi) are a common cause of chronic cystitis. Females appear to be more susceptible to bladder infections than males.

Common signs of bladder infection include frequent licking of the vulva or penis, frequent voiding of small amounts of urine, blood in the urine, painful urination and unproductive straining to urinate.

### Important Points in Treatment

1. *Medication:* Medication must be given as directed. Evening medication should be given after the last trip outdoors, and morning medication should be given after your pet has been allowed the opportunity to urinate. Call the doctor if you cannot give the medication as directed.
2. Make sure your pet has frequent opportunities to urinate during the day, as prolonged urine retention tends to promote cystitis.
3. *Water:* Allow access to clean, fresh water at all times.
4. *Diet:* Follow the instructions checked.

\_\_\_\_\_ Feed the normal diet.

\_\_\_\_\_ Feed Prescription Diet as follows: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Add \_\_\_\_\_ teaspoon(s) of table salt to each meal.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Other:* \_\_\_\_\_

### Notify the Doctor if Any of the Following Occur

- Your pet continues to have discomfort when urinating.
- Your pet cannot urinate.
- Your pet vomits or has diarrhea.
- Your pet continues to have bloody urine.
- Your pet's problem recurs after apparent recovery.