

AUTUMN 2022



# WANGARATTA VETERINARY CLINIC

## Sometimes wee have trouble...

Have you ever seen your cat:

- Straining to urinate
- Frequently attempting to urinate but only passing small amounts of urine
- Blood in the urine
- Licking their genital area
- Urinating outside their litter tray

If so, it's likely your cat is suffering from a lower urinary tract issue which is very common in cats.

The causes of lower urinary tract disease include:

- Idiopathic Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease (IFLUTD).

This is the most common cause.

- Urinary tract infection
- Urinary stones
- Cancer

To work out what the underlying cause is, we may need to do urine analysis, urine culture, x-rays and ultrasound.

Cats who suffer from IFLUTD often have repeat episodes over their lifetime and most commonly these episodes are brought on by a stressful event. These stressful events might be obvious such as a cat fight or can be more subtle like a new cat roaming the area, changes in the weather or visitors to the house.

Initial treatment involves treating the discomfort caused by the condition. Management of IFLUTD is aimed at reducing stressful events and the effect on your cat by using Feliway pheromone diffusers, ensuring adequate numbers of well placed litter trays are available, other behavioural supports and the use of prescription diets. Trouble urinating, particularly in male cats, should be treated as an emergency as the boys can become completely blocked and not pass any urine at all. Not only is this extremely uncomfortable but if it is not treated quickly it is fatal.

If you have a cat that is stressed easily or you are concerned about any of these symptoms please give us a call on 0357214000.

## Jo's Jabber

I hope you have made it through this wet, humid summer! We have had several changes at the clinic over the summer; our manager Nat has moved south and her role has been taken on by Hollie, and our receptionist Sarah moved on to her next adventure. We welcomed Lorna into our vet team – she's from Melbourne and is eagerly looking forward to moving out of our little unit! And Angie our new receptionist (and keen cyclist) joined us! Please say hi to our newcomers next time you are in and we really appreciate how patient you are whenever we have new team members - thanks!

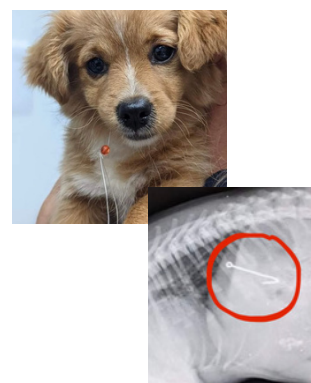
The kids didn't have an ideal start to the new school year, with the holidays extended by 2 weeks of isolation. They have well and truly settled back in despite this, although Oliver had one hungry day when the canteen was unexpectedly not in operation... There also seems to be a general reluctance to mow the lawn with our ride-on out of action – clearly not desperate enough for pocket money at this point! And we've had some late night 'checks' being performed on the ipad while on the charger which has forced a change in storage location – I still have no idea how long that had been going on before the 'helper' was found out...

Have a fantastic Autumn!

## Case of the Quarter

Asal ate a fish hook while holidaying in the area! Dr Amy was able to perform emergency abdominal surgery to successfully retrieve the hook.

Asal made a speedy recovery and was back in her (very happy!) Dad's arms the following day.





# Are your bulls romance ready?

DR JOANNE WILLIAMS

Coming in to Autumn calving means we're only a few months off putting the bulls back in the herd! So the big question is are your bulls going to be able to do the job?

## Facts about Felix

FELIX - VETERINARIAN

**If you could only choose one song to play every time you walked into a room for the rest of your life, what would it be?**

Beastie Boys - Sabotage

**If you were an animal, what kind of animal would you be and why?**

Cat - because they get to sleep whenever they want.

**Where is home?**

Wangaratta

**What keeps you out of trouble?**

Cooking

**What would your best friend say is your best habit?**

Open to try anything without judgement

**Pets at home:**

Ron the dog, 2 cats - Buddy & Aggie, 2 horses - George & Harry, 4 sheep - Parsnip, Planet P, Peggy & Eugene.

**Favourite...**

**Lolly:** Licorice

**Vegetable:** Potato

**Singer/Band:** Benee

**Movie:** City of God

The 2-3 months before the start of the joining season is a great opportunity to check your bulls out and deal with any potential breeding problems BEFORE you let them loose with the cows. The investment in checking them out before joining pales compared to the cost of non-performing bulls. It drops your stomach through the floor when you discover at pregnancy testing that only half your cows are in calf and it's too late to fix it.

There are several things you can do prior to joining to help ensure your bulls have the best chance of getting your cows in calf possible (you're aiming for 92% or more in calf)

- Body condition – are they in good condition but not too fat? They'll use a lot of energy during joining and they don't eat as much, so they need to be in great physical condition coming in.

- Feet – bulls are heavy animals and there is a lot of walking and pressure put particularly on the hind feet during joining. Are their toes too long or crossing over? Any growths (corns) between the toes that are causing problems? When they walk the hind hoof should land in the same place as the front hoof just left. If this doesn't happen it can be a sign of discomfort –likely from their feet, back or legs. Bulls need sedation to be able to examine and trim their feet, so we need enough time so they are fully recovered from any treatment before joining starts.

- Semen quality - everything else may look great, but if there is not enough strong swimming sperm you will run into low pregnancy rates. We can collect a semen sample for assessment to help you decide which bulls are ready and which need to be replaced.

- Vaccinations need to be up to date - Vibriosis, Pestivirus and 7-in-1

During joining, check the bulls daily. If they are off on their own, lame or showing any other issues replace them immediately and get treatment organised. Always run 2 bulls per mob (and in bigger mobs run 1 bull to 30-50 cows) so that if there is a problem with one, there is already a backup in there. Remember to mark on your calendar to book your pregnancy testing 6 weeks after the bulls have come out so you can make any management decisions nice and early. If you would like to book in or have a chat (no bull!) about your bulls or any cow concerns please just give us a call on 0357214000.

## FUN FACT

Fleas can jump 350 times its body length.

## EYE ROLLER

What did the fish say when it swam into a wall?

**Dam!**

