



Male Cat Urinary Obstruction

Emergency Condition

Urinary obstruction in male cats is life-threatening.

If you suspect your cat is blocked, **seek veterinary care immediately. Do not wait.**

What Is a Urinary Obstruction?

A urinary obstruction is a **partial or complete blockage of the urethra** that prevents urine from leaving the bladder.

In male cats, this condition is especially dangerous because **toxins and potassium build up rapidly**, which can be fatal without prompt treatment.

Common Signs to Watch For

Contact a veterinarian immediately if your cat shows any of the following:

- Straining to urinate with little or no urine produced
- Frequent trips to the litter box
- Crying, vocalizing, or posturing as if trying to urinate
- Hiding, agitation, or aggression
- Abdominal pain or a visibly swollen belly
- Lethargy, vomiting, drooling, or collapse (*advanced/toxic signs*)

Immediate Actions

- **This is an emergency.**
- **Bring your cat to a veterinary clinic or emergency hospital immediately.**
- **Do not attempt home remedies.**
- **Do not delay treatment.**



What to Expect at the Hospital

Your cat may receive:

Initial Stabilization

- Rapid assessment of breathing, circulation, and pain
- Immediate treatment if critical electrolyte or heart abnormalities are present

Diagnostics

- Bloodwork to assess kidney function, hydration, and electrolytes (especially potassium)
- Urine testing
- Imaging (X-rays or ultrasound) if needed

Treatment

- **Urinary catheter placement** under sedation or anesthesia to relieve the blockage
- IV fluid therapy to correct dehydration and electrolyte imbalances
- Pain control and medications to relax the urinary tract
- Antibiotics **only if infection is confirmed**

Monitoring

- Continuous monitoring of:
 - Heart rhythm
 - Blood pressure
 - Urine output
 - Electrolytes

Hospitalization

- Many cats require **24–72+ hours of hospitalization**, depending on severity and response to treatment

Treatment Options & Possible Procedures

- Medical management with urinary catheterization (*most common initial approach*)
- Repeat catheterization or flushing if blockage recurs
- **Cystotomy** (surgical removal of bladder stones), if indicated



- **Perineal urethrostomy (PU surgery)** for cats with repeated or unmanageable obstructions

Risks & Potential Complications

- Life-threatening high potassium (hyperkalemia) causing heart rhythm disturbances
- Bladder damage or rupture (*rare*)
- Recurrence of obstruction
- Infection or catheter-related complications
- Adverse reactions to medications or anesthesia

Prognosis

- **Excellent with prompt treatment**
- Prognosis worsens if treatment is delayed or if severe kidney or heart complications develop
- Recurrence is possible, but **long-term management can significantly reduce risk**

Home Care After Discharge

Medications

- Give all medications **exactly as prescribed**
- Never stop or change medications without veterinary guidance

Monitor Urination

- Ensure your cat is urinating normally
- Watch for straining, decreased urine, or discomfort

Environment

- Provide a clean, low-sided litter box
- Ensure easy access without stairs or obstacles
- Minimize stress at home

Diet & Hydration

- Follow prescribed urinary diets strictly
- Encourage water intake:



- Wet food
- Multiple water bowls
- Pet water fountains

Prevention & Long-Term Management

- Increase water consumption
- Feed veterinary-recommended urinary diets
- Maintain a low-stress environment
- Manage weight and underlying health conditions
- Attend follow-up exams and urine testing as advised

Contact Us Immediately If You Notice:

- Straining or inability to urinate
- Lethargy, vomiting, or collapse
- Pale or blue-tinged gums
- Sudden worsening of symptoms
- Concerns about medications or urine output