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## How to Get Urine from a Cat

Urinary track infection (UTI) is very common in cats. However, it may be life threatening in male cats. It can happen as a result of urinary crystals, bladder stones, blood or mucous plugs, bladder tumor, to name a few. In order to find out which is the cause of it, we have to use x rays to rule out bladder stones, Urinalysis to rule out crystals, ultrasound to rule out bladder tumor. Also, whenever crystals or stones are present an infection sets in the urine. Worse, if the cat can't urinate a normal flow, which can be a result of the UTI, the urine backs up into the kidneys and starts to destroy kidney tissue. The body does not make new kidney cells so once kidney cells die they cannot be replaced. One out of 4 or 5 animals will die from kidney disease, so it is imperative to notice UTI early so it can be treated, and prevent the domino effect of possible kidney damage.

The symptoms of UTI are frequent visits to the litter box, urinating outside of the box, or on a couch or bed, taking the urination pose in the litter box for long periods of a time.

When you bring your cat to your veterinarian for any of these above symptoms it will speed the diagnosis up by bringin urine with you. You can get urine from a cat with the following steps:

- 1) The night before going to the veterinarian remove the litter from the box, and wash and dry the box
- 2) Keep all other cats except the one with the UTI symptoms away from the litter box
- 3) Put 5 strips of 1/4 inch wide paper in the litter box. Paper from a paper shredder is perfect.
- 4) Overnight the cat will urinate in the box, most of the urine will NOT stick to the 5 pieces of 1/4 inch wide paper and will accumulate at the bottom of the pan.
- 5) Transfer that urine to a tiny clean container and bring with you for the exam. We only need about 1 teaspoon of urine to run a urinalysis.





