



## NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2005

### STRESS LEADS TO FELINE BLADDER DISEASE

An ongoing study by the Edinburgh University is comparing cats in the same household, some with bladder disease and some without. When stress occurs, the pH balance of the urine changes, making it a perfect environment for bacteria and crystals to form.

It has been discovered that long-term stress is a significant factor in the development of bladder disease. In-house rivalry causing stress seems to be the biggest factor in bladder problems in cats according to this study. Just like people, some cats cope with stress better than others. In an article we read, it was revealed that cats who had a favourite hiding place did this to avoid stress and were often more relaxed.

When customers tell us about their pets developing bladder problems, it was often in response to a recent change in the household – a new pet, new baby, renovations, new carpeting, etc.

### CATNIP – THE “WACKY WEED”

Catnip is a member of the mint family. It contains a non-addict substance that makes it the “recreational drug of choice” for some cats. Cats require a specific gene to make them attracted to catnip. Therefore, if your cat’s parents didn’t carry the gene, your kitty will not be interested in catnip. It is estimated that about 30% of cats lack this gene. This explains why half our cats go crazy over catnip and the others just sniff it and walk away.

Having said that, the quality of catnip also has a bearing on whether your cat might react or not to a toy. A lot of toy companies use a tiny amount of cheap toy grade catnip with a lot of cotton filler to make an inexpensive toy that doesn’t really do much for cats. Toy grade catnip costs \$1.00 a pound, while potent organic catnip can be as much as \$5 a pound. So, using a highly potent organic catnip and lots of it are the key to a toy that just might make your cat pay attention – well at least for 20 minutes or so !

### TWENTY FIVE CENTS A POUND FOR PET FOOD !!

Recently, we saw a sign advertising 18 kg (40 lbs.) of dog food for \$9.99. This breaks down to 25 cents per pound ! What can you possibly buy that is edible for 25 cents a pound? Certainly not meat or vegetables and not even rice or oats are that cheap.

The sad thing is that some people will think this is a bargain and many poor dogs will be eating this food. The owners will spend twice as much time vacuuming up fur and cleaning up what the dogs didn’t digest. What they thought they saved on pet food will more than likely be spent on veterinarian bills ! What looked like a bargain didn’t end up like such a bargain.

### SOFT CRATES & PET STROLLERS

Pet Gear is a new addition to our store featuring folding soft sided crates that have top and end flap entries and mesh screen windows to protect against mosquitoes and other insects. These are great for camping and for use in your vehicle or home.

Pet Gear also makes a very high quality, sturdy and collapsible pet stroller that rivals the quality of most strollers made for kids!! Great for all small pets, especially those with limited mobility who still like to go for “walks”.

### ARE YOU ALLERGIC TO YOUR CAT?

If you think you, or one of your family are allergic to your cat, before you consider giving up your beloved pet, here are some suggestions.

Homeopathic remedies combinations can be taken to alleviate the sneezing, runny nose and itchy eyes that occur when animal dander gets into our respiratory system. Ask us about “Pet Allergy”.

Allerpet is a liquid that can be brushed through your cat’s fur to lessen the amount of dander (not to be confused with dandruff) that your pet sheds. Of course, feeding your cat a high quality food lessens the amount of fur and skin that they lose each day. This in turn will help you. Taking high doses of Vitamin C can act like a natural antihistamine. Other supplements such as Moducare can be helpful to balance the immune system.

Use pet beds or blankets in areas that your cat likes to sleep. These can be removed and washed frequently. Avoid letting your cat in your bedroom. Vacuuming frequently can be helpful. Wash your hands immediately after touching your pet or any of its bedding. Consider having someone else groom your cat on a regular basis.

Allergies, whether to foods, pets or environmental substances signal an immune system that is out of balance and needing support.

In good health,  
Mike, Lee, Jayne & Moxy

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