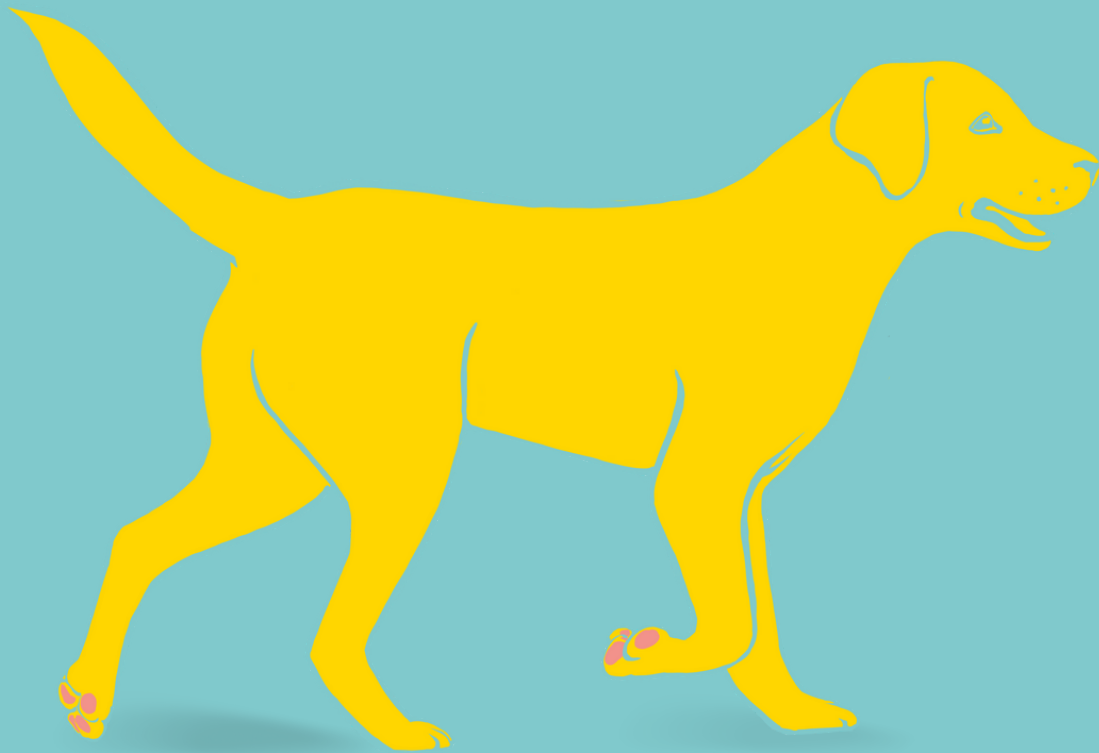


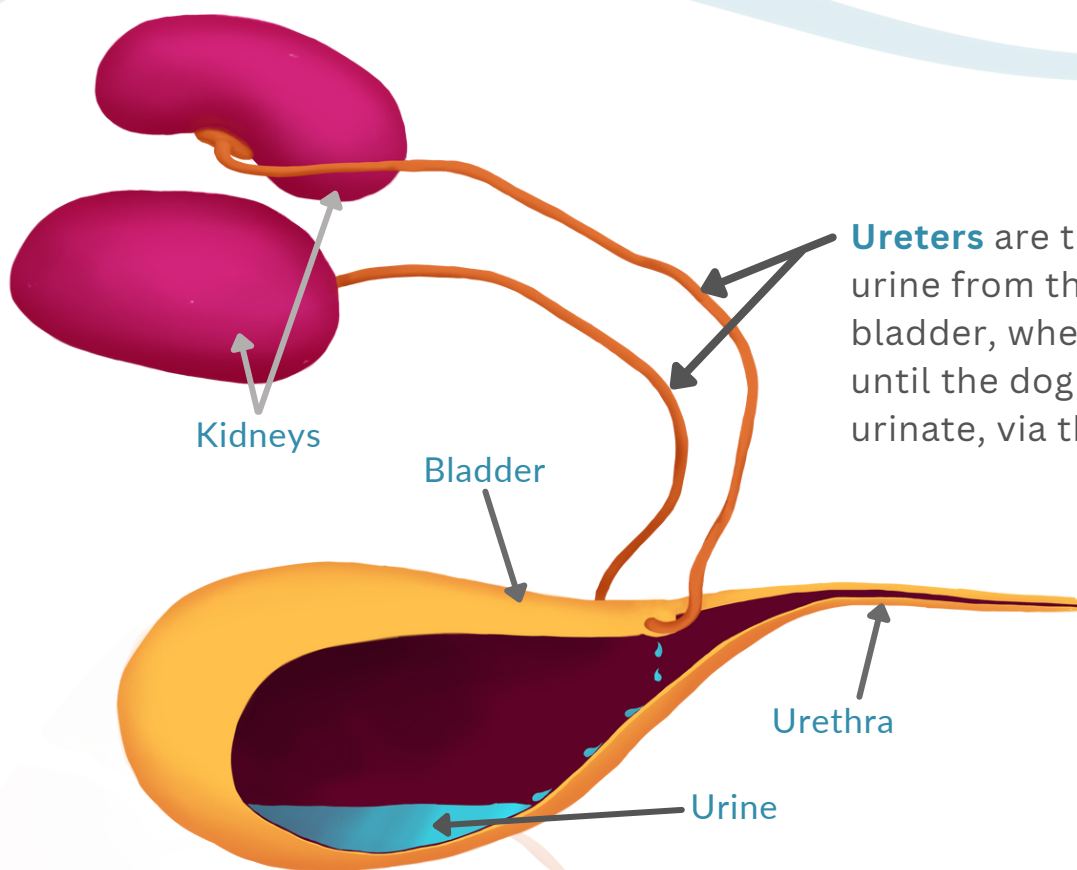


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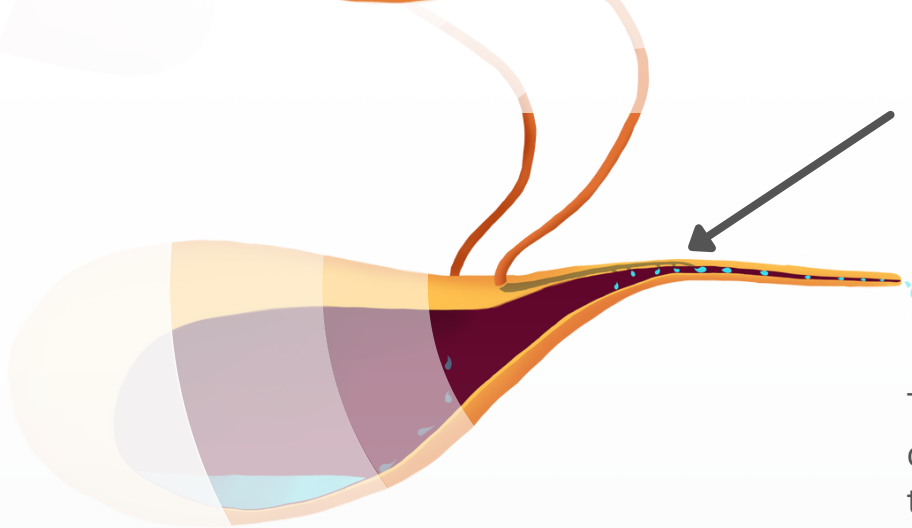
A mini guide to:
Ectopic Ureters



Overview: What are ureters?



Ureters are tubes that carry urine from the kidneys to the bladder, where it is collected until the dog chooses to urinate, via the urethra.

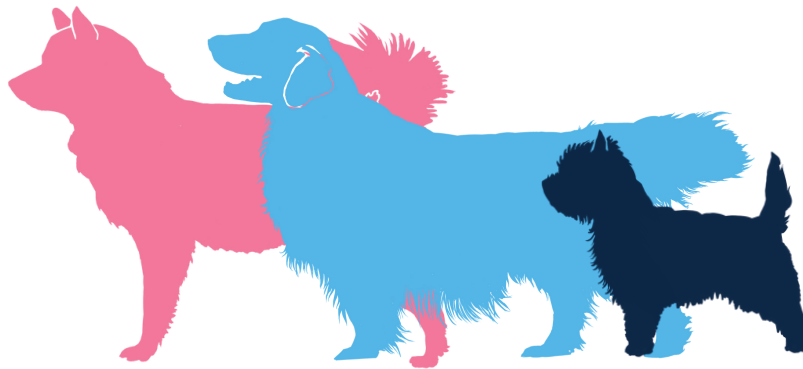


An **Ectopic Ureter** bypasses the normal bladder insertion point and enters directly into the bladder neck or the urethra.

This causes urine to slowly drip into the urethra rather than collect in the bladder, resulting in signs of urine leakage.

Overview: Breeds and symptoms

Ectopic Ureters are most often seen in female dogs, and are over-represented in Labradors, Golden Retrievers, Siberian Huskies, West Highland Terriers, Newfoundlands, Wheaten Terriers and Miniature Poodles.



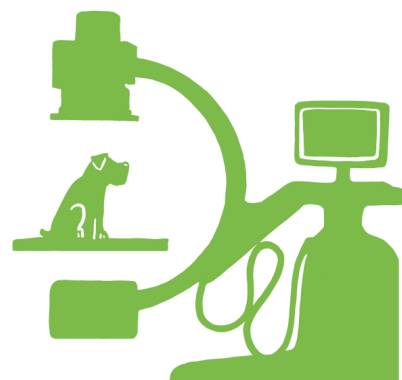
Ectopic Ureters are congenital (animals are born with the abnormality). Symptoms are usually noticed early in female puppies, but some dogs may not be diagnosed until later in life.

Symptoms can include:

- Constant or intermittent urine leakage
- Frequent licking at genital area
- Discolored fur, or rash around genitals
- Frequent urination of small volumes
- Straining whilst urinating
- Recurrent urinary infections
- Difficult to house train

Treatment: Diagnosis

Diagnosis involves a thorough medical examination and discussion regarding the pet's clinical presentation. In most cases investigation will include a urinalysis (assessment for infection) and imaging of the urogenital system (Kidneys to Urethra). This may include abdominal ultrasound, CT scan with contrast, fluoroscopy scan or cystoscopy (inserting a camera in the urethra and bladder).



Imaging will help pinpoint the location of the ureter, enabling the vet to make a plan for treatment. Laser ablation or surgery are recommended in these cases, though the type of the procedure will vary depending on the location of the misplaced ureter.

Treatment:

Intramural ectopic ureter:

The ureter enters the bladder in a normal position but then tunnels through the wall, opening into the urethra rather than the bladder.

Patients with this variation may be eligible for a cystoscopic-guided laser ablation (via a small camera in the urethra) although surgery is also a viable option.



Extramural ectopic ureter:

The ureters bypass the bladder and open directly into the urethra. This type is seen less in dogs but nearly always in feline patients.

Patients with this variation require surgical re-plantation.

Incontinence may persist even after surgery, due to concurrent **Urethral Sphincter Mechanism Incompetence (USMI)**. Patients with USMI may need life long medication, or further surgery to insert an artificial urethral sphincter.