

## **INCONTINENCE**

Urinary incontinence is a common problem in older desexed female dogs. It is rarely seen in cats and neutered male dogs. Risk factors for incontinence can include obesity, large body size ie large breed dogs more commonly present with symptoms than small breed dogs. The symptoms often include wetting the bed, leaking of urine when laying down and sometimes a slight smell due to urine scalding around the back end.

It is very important that this disease is not confused with other more serious urinary tract disease or internal diseases. Bladder infections, bladder stones, kidney disease, and other disease that causes your pet to drink more water may be mistaken for general urinary incontinence, because these diseases can also cause your pet to have changes in urinary habits.

If your pet is showing any symptoms of urinary incontinence then a check up at the vet is a good idea. Your vet will first obtain a history in regards to your pet's appetite and drinking habits! After a general clinical examination it will be recommended that a urine sample and /or blood test be taken to rule out other important diseases. If these tests are clear then your pet may have a hormonal related urinary incontinence. There are several treatment options that will be discussed by your veterinarian – some which may be suitable for certain pets only.

It is important that if your pet is diagnosed with incontinence that fresh water be available to your pet at all times and withholding water is something that is not recommended.