



Urinary Incontinence

Dogs are occasionally relinquished to the shelter with a history of having urinary incontinence. This condition can be difficult to confirm in the shelter environment. We send these pets to foster homes with special instructions to monitor for behaviors consistent with incontinence. If these behaviors are confirmed, we start a medication to assist in managing this problem. Below are some signs to help distinguish incontinence from other urinary issues.

Urinary Incontinence

- Persistent wetness and fur staining
- Urine scaling around vulva
- Dog is unaware of passage of urine
- Volume of urine produced is typically less than the amount produced during normal voiding
- Dribbling urine is most noticeable when dog is asleep, bedding is often wet

Urinary Tract Infection (UTI)

- Frequently posturing to urinate, may be straining to urinate
- Alerting that she needs to go outside often
- Produces small amounts of urine, or posturing with no urine produced
- Urine may appear discolored, or even blood-tinged (pinkish)

Submissive Urination/Housetraining

- Small amount of normal-appearing urine due to stress response (fear, excitement)
- Dog usually postures during submissive urination, but not always
- Large amount of urine near doors or areas where previously urinated when dog is not completely housetrained
- Urine usually appears normal in color

Most dogs that experience this problem have urethral sphincter mechanism incontinence (USMI), otherwise known as hormone-responsive incontinence. If urinary incontinence can be confirmed, we will usually start the dog on a medication that can help manage this condition. This is a life-long medication. Typically, we expect to confirm urinary incontinence within 1-2 weeks in a foster home. If urinary incontinence is confirmed, the dog will be sent back to a foster home for 2 weeks on treatment to confirm that the condition can be medically managed.

Side effects of the medication that you may see are restlessness, irritability, vomiting, anorexia, weight loss, and panting. Please take note of these changes and contact the foster office with these, or any other concerns.

Shelter Number 303-751-5772 Ext 7290

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