

Recommendations for Cats With a History of Urinary Tract Disease

Cats with a history of FLUTD / FIC (due to crystals/stones) may benefit from:

A. Increased water consumption

- Feed canned food
- Provide easy access to fresh water at all times
- Use a bowl with a wide surface area and keep the water bowl full at all times (cats have very sensitive whiskers and many seem to prefer a large bowl in which the whiskers do not touch the sides of the bowl)
- Try a variety of water types (Brita, distilled, bottled, warm tap water, cold tap water)
- Provide a source of running water (water fountains are available for cats)
- Feed ice cubes flavored by tuna or clam juice
- Keep food and water bowls away from the litter box area
- Keep the water bowl clean (cats have a very keen sense of smell and are easily turned off by odors on the edge of the bowl)
- Change the nature of the water bowl (some cats prefer a clear glass bowl)
- Many cats prefer their water not to be too close to their food bowl
- Provide a water bowl on each level of the house, and try to provide at least two sources of water

B. Modified environment

- Identify and decrease stressors
- Provide at least one litter box per cat in the household plus one. (3 cats → 4 litter boxes)
- Keep the litter boxes in quiet areas
- Avoid covered litter boxes
- Use unscented, fine-grained type litters
- Change the litter frequently