

There is a growing body of evidence that suggests that Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease (FLUTD), while still a poorly understood entity, may not only have genetic and metabolic causes, but may also be heavily influenced by psychological stressors.

What does this mean for your cat?

It may mean that applying techniques to reduce stress in your cat may be beneficial in reducing the expression of FLUTD. It may also mean that feeding your cat the best foods designed to reduce the expression of FLUTD may be incomplete treatment if you do not also pay at least some attention to your cat's mental health and well-being.

Understanding stress in a cat's life can be a daunting task, but it is known that enriching an indoor cat's life can go a long way toward helping him (or her) live without the effects of FLUTD.

At Schomberg Veterinary Services, we frequently direct our clients to a website called, "The Indoor Pet Initiative," a site hosted and facilitated by The Ohio State University, and considered by most experts to be *THE* site for information on how to enrich the life (and by natural extension, decrease "stress") of indoor cats.

For pets with confirmed or suspected FLUTD, perhaps the most important points on which to focus are:

- Provide refuge areas
- Provide vertical climbing opportunities
- Provide a dedicated sleeping area
- Pay attention to litter box issues
- Ensure your pet has a dedicated perching area

For more information, please visit our website, www.schombergvetservices.ca, select the Links page, and scroll down to Resources to find the link to The Indoor Pet Initiative. [<http://indoorpet.osu.edu/cats/>]