



Tenterden is 'Cat Friendly'

Our Tenterden team are delighted to have been awarded Silver accreditation by the International Society of Feline Medicine as a "Cat Friendly Clinic".

An accredited Cat Friendly Clinic has a higher standard of feline care. All of our team understand the needs of cats and we have made surgery visits more cat friendly, with our dedicated Cat Waiting Area. We have "Cat Advocates", Nicole Versteegh RVN and Esther Masso MRCVS who maintain our cat friendly standards and are happy to offer advice. All our team understand how to approach and handle cats gently. Our clinical team are required to continually maintain and update their knowledge.

We understand the difficulties when bringing your cat to the surgery:

- Cats do not often travel well and feel unsafe away from home
- They are sensitive to new sights, sounds and smells
- Most cats prefer solitude, quiet and are highly susceptible to stress
- Most cats are highly stressed by nearby dogs in the clinic
- Cats need to be handled gently and with respect.

Top tips for bringing your cat to the vets:

- A top opening carrier is easier to put your cat in. Leave the carrier around in the home so your cat is used to seeing it not just when they need to go the vets! You can also put treats in and encourage them to use it as a bed.
- Pheromone sprays can help calm and relax your cat. They should be sprayed 15-30 minutes before putting your cat in the carrier.
- Cover the carrier with a blanket and ensure the carrier is lined with newspaper and a blanket stop your cat sliding around.
- Hold the carrier from the bottom not the handle to avoid swinging the carrier around.
- Be aware of what music and how loud you play it in the car. Our cats do not share our music tastes and cat friendly CD's are available!
- Cat friendly vets like us will have elevated areas to put your carrier on so your cat can be placed above floor level while waiting to see the vet.

More advice, information and leaflets on "Cat Friendly Clinics" can be found on the ISFM website

<https://icatcare.org/>

Protect your Pet

Cinque Ports Vets Pet Healthcare Plan is available to all our clients and their pets. Our Pet Healthcare Plan covers the preventative care your pet needs for a small monthly fee. This includes 2 vet health checks, vaccinations, parasite treatments and additional discounts on a range of products and services. Find out more on our website or give us a call to discuss.



Sign up between 31st May and 31st August and receive a free joining gift for your pet while stocks last.

The plan is available for dogs, cats and rabbits from any age and the monthly payment plan will be dependent on the bodyweight of your pet.



Keyhole Surgery

Keyhole (laparoscopic) surgery is available at our Rye branch for your dog's routine spay operation. This is a minimally invasive technique involving 2-3 small skin incisions to remove the ovaries. Both keyhole and conventional surgical techniques have various benefits depending on the patient.

Please see our website or call us to find out more information and discuss the various options available.

Forget Me Not

As pet owners ourselves we understand how hard it is to say goodbye and cope with the grief process. Sharing your memories can help and we have created a Forget Me Not Facebook Group page to help with the grief process. Sharing your grief, talking about your pet and remembering the many wonderful times you shared can help enormously.



Could your pet be affected by Kidney Disease?

Kidney disease, also referred to as renal disease or failure occurs in both cats and dogs.

What is kidney disease?

In a healthy pet, the kidneys filter waste products that are produced by the body. The kidneys are responsible for cleansing the blood of the waste products and maintaining levels of water and salt within the body.

Inside each kidney, the renal arteries branch into smaller and smaller parts until they reach the functional units of the kidney, the nephrons. The nephrons include tiny coiled tubes of capillaries and regulate waste, water, and other materials in the blood and urine to adjust to the body's changing needs, leaving the remaining fluid (urine) to pass from the kidneys to the bladder via the ureters.

Over time a proportion of the nephrons will disappear with age and are not replaced. Other factors such as toxins or infection can also destroy nephrons.

However, symptoms of kidney disease are not usually seen until two thirds of the nephrons have been lost. When this stage is reached, the kidneys start to lose their ability to concentrate the urine, resulting in an increased amount of dilute urine and increased thirst. Toxic waste products also accumulate in the blood causing a loss of appetite, weight loss and poor coat condition

Clinical Signs:

- Increased drinking (polydipsia)
- Increased urination (polyuria)
- Depression
- Decreased appetite
- Vomiting
- Weight loss
- Lethargy
- Hunched posture or reluctant to move
- Poor or unkempt coat

By regularly examining your pet we can help detect kidney disease before outward signs are visible. Although kidney disease can not be cured medication and specially formulated diets can improve quality of life and increase their life span.

At Cinque Ports Vets we run free senior clubs to offer advice on age related problems. Here you can chat to a veterinary nurse about how best to care for your pet during their golden years. There is also the opportunity to have a free urine test to routinely check your older pet's urine. Early stages of kidney failure produce changes in the composition of the urine. Blood tests may also be recommended depending on the individual case but the earlier the signs are detected the better the chance of your pet having a longer, healthier life.

Remember kidney failure occurs three times more frequently in cats than in dogs and increased drinking and urination with a poor unkempt coat are not the normal signs of ageing.

Please contact your local branch of Cinque Ports Vets if you have any concerns about your pet's health or would like to find out more about our Senior Clubs. Why not try our Feline Renal Function Questionnaire available on our website.

If your cat has recently been diagnosed with renal failure you may be interested to read 'Caring For A Cat With Kidney Failure' by Dr Sarah Caney. It has been designed to be a complete guide to kidney failure in cats - from receiving the bad news and dealing with emotional issues, through to diagnosis, treatment and monitoring, to euthanasia and bereavement advice.

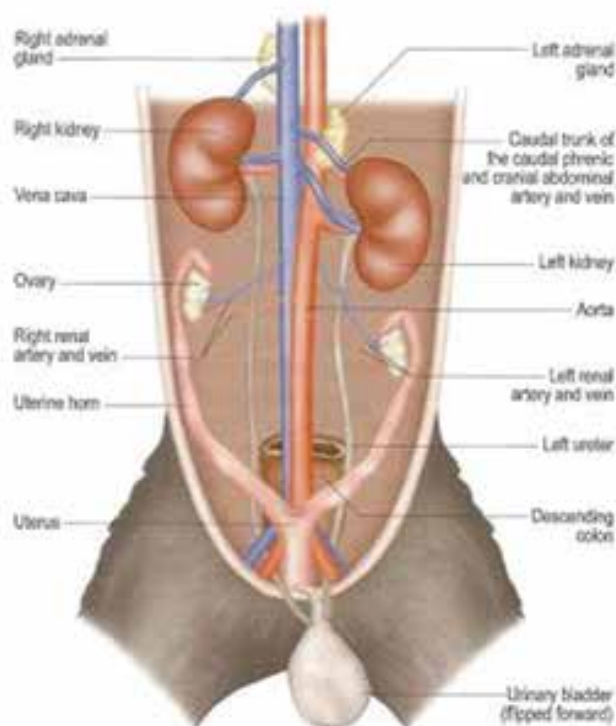


Fig. 4.34 Ventrodorsal view of the urinary tract

Picture courtesy of BSAVA Textbook of veterinary nursing