



THE FELINER

3945 Edison Lakes Parkway • Mishawaka, IN 46545-3006 • (574) 259-5291 • www.magranepmc.com

A MAGRANE PET MEDICAL CENTER INSERT FOR CAT LOVERS, SPRING 2013

ONE LUCKY CAT



When Lucky's owner awakened in the morning of the last Wednesday of January, she knew right away that something was wrong with her cat. At first, Lucky began running around the house, then stopping to squat, as if to urinate. But no urine came out, and Lucky meowed very loudly to complain about the situation. Then he vomited three times.

Urinary blockage is a fairly common condition in male cats. Mucus, crystals, and tiny bladder stones can clump together to plug the narrow male cat urethra. If complete blockage of the urinary tract occurs, the kidneys stop making urine as there is nowhere for it to go. The toxins that build up in the cat's system can cause nausea, appetite loss, and vomiting. By the time cats

exhibit behavioral symptoms, the condition has usually been building up for many hours, or even for several days.

Lucky's owner called Ireland Road Animal Clinic, where she had taken Lucky in the past. Dr. Logue, who works there as well as at Magrane Pet Medical Center, told her to bring Lucky in for an exam. By mid-afternoon, Dr. Logue had determined that Lucky was a "blocked cat," the common term for a cat with urinary obstruction. According to his notes, Lucky was "anxious and vocal" with a bladder that was "enlarged, tight, painful." Lucky was also "uremic," which means that toxic wastes were building up in his system, poisoning him.

This condition can be life-threatening to cats, causing heart-rhythm disturbances, and is definitely an emergency situation.

Dr. Logue sent Lucky to Magrane Pet Medical Center, where the staff could give comprehensive continuing care. Dr. Meltzer at Magrane saw Lucky right away, and began treatment with anesthetic, unblocking Lucky's urethra with a catheter, then flushing his bladder and administering fluids to help his system recover from the uremia.

Some cats can be unblocked only with great difficulty; others must have an emergency perineal urethrostomy to surgically re-establish urine flow.

By early evening, Lucky was feeling much better, and the catheter had been stitched into place to keep his urethra open. Analgesics and antibiotics were used to ease his pain and start the healing process. He was hospitalized overnight, with IV fluids running to keep him hydrated.

Meanwhile, Lucky's owner had returned home, where her six year old grandson, Cameron, asked, "Where's my Kitty Cat?" The whole family had time to reflect on how much they loved Lucky. Years before, they had rescued Lucky as a kitten from the middle of a road. He had been struck by a car, and left there to die with cracked ribs. Veterinary treatment followed by the family's tender loving care had turned Lucky into "the best cat I've ever had," according to his owner.

The kidneys do most of the work during the recovery phase. Once the cat is urinating reliably on his own, he will be released from the hospital for home care. Often, hospitalization is needed for several days.

Less than twenty-four hours after his initial diagnosis as a "blocked cat," Lucky had recovered enough to be sent home with medications and a special diet to help him get back to normal. And Cameron is delighted to have his "Kitty Cat" back home!



by Vikky Warner

Dear Opie,

I saw a commercial on television that shows Magrane Pet Medical Center is now a “Cat Friendly” practice. What exactly does this mean?

That is a great question! As we discussed in our last “Dear Opie”, cat visits are on the decline nationwide and that is not a good trend for the overall health of our cat population. In response to this trend, the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) initiated the Cat Friendly Practice program. We felt that becoming a designated Cat Friendly Practice would help us to help you. We completed the self-assessment checklist and submitted this to the AAFP. We were certified as a Gold Level practice, which is the highest level of certification. Cat Friendly Practices are sensitive to the needs of both cats and their owners. We focus

on the handling of feline patients to make their visit a more comfortable experience. We have on-going staff training focusing on the cat’s natural behaviors and needs and we strive to integrate that understanding into our practice environment. Our staff is well versed in feline handling techniques and can expertly deal with frightened cats. The staff is well trained in alternate techniques to calm an anxious cat and ensure that exams and procedures do not escalate anxiety. Our physical environment is cat friendly as well. We have a feline-sensitive examination room where, upon your arrival, you and your cat will be escorted. You are encouraged to open your cat’s carrier and let him or her explore the surroundings before the assistant arrives to obtain your cat’s history and vital signs. If this room is occupied when you arrive, we have separate alcoves where you and your cat can get away from others while you wait. We have elevated tables where you may place your cat’s carrier up off the floor, making him or her feel less threatened. If your cat is to stay with us, whether it’s for surgery or for boarding, we have separate housing facilities for cats, where it is quiet and they can feel safe. We even have “kitty bags” for them to snuggle into and make their own hide away. We are suited to address your cat’s unique needs and to provide you with advice and information that is critical to your cat’s health.



FRIEND US ON FACEBOOK

Magrane Pet Medical Center prides itself in staying current with the most up-to-date medicine available for your pet. When it comes to social networking, we want to do the same. However, we can’t do this without your help. Please search for and friend Magrane Pet Medical Center on Facebook today and begin networking with our clients and staff. It is a fun way to share stories, pictures, and information with people who have something in common—a unique bond with their pets!



CAT GROOMING AT MAGRANE

Due to popular request, Magrane Pet Medical Center is offering cat grooming. Needed most by long-haired cats, the grooming will include removal of matted hair and shaving to restore a balanced appearance to your pet. Other options include bathing, shaving cats to resemble lions or teddy bears, nail trims, and banishing fleas. For highly nervous cats, we offer mild sedation to make the experience more pleasant for everyone.



Give us a call to schedule your cat’s beauty treatment!

If you have a short story about your cat that you would like to share with us, please email it to stezich1@yahoo.com or bring it in to Magrane Pet Medical Center. We would also like a photo to go along with the story. We will make an effort to publish all of the entries submitted. Thank you!