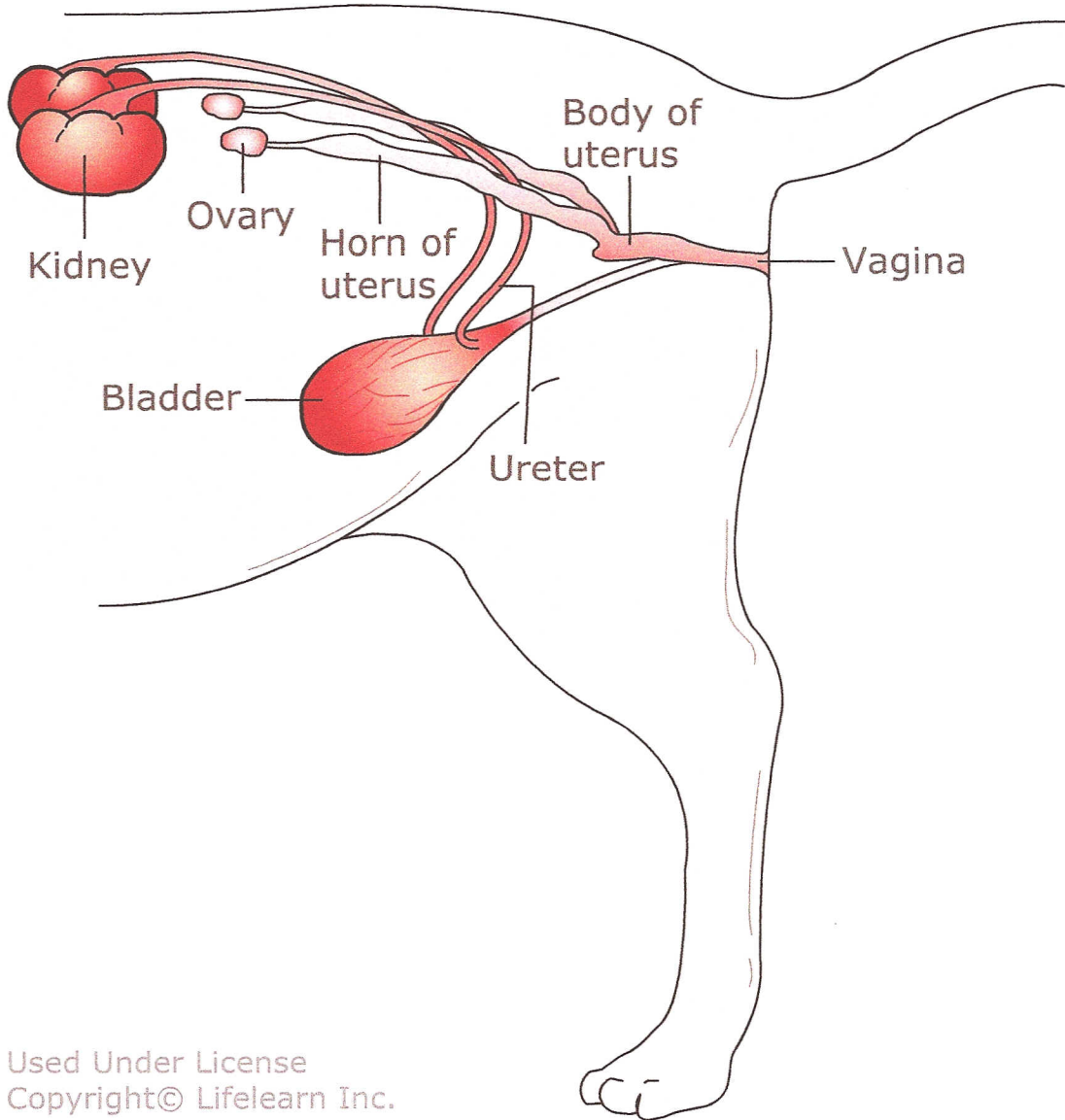


Urinary Tract - Female Cat: Anatomy of the female cat urinary tract, cystitis.



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The urinary tract consists of the kidneys, ureters, bladder, and urethra. In the female, the urethra is short and wide, and empties just inside the vaginal opening. The most common condition affecting the female cat's urinary system is cystitis or inflammation of the bladder. Occasionally, bladder inflammation is caused by an infection. There is a definite link between inflammatory bladder disease and stress. Cats suffering from inflammatory bladder disease will often urinate frequently, straining as they pass urine, and they may pass blood in the urine. Additional information about urinary tract diseases in the cat is available in our Client Education Handout Series.