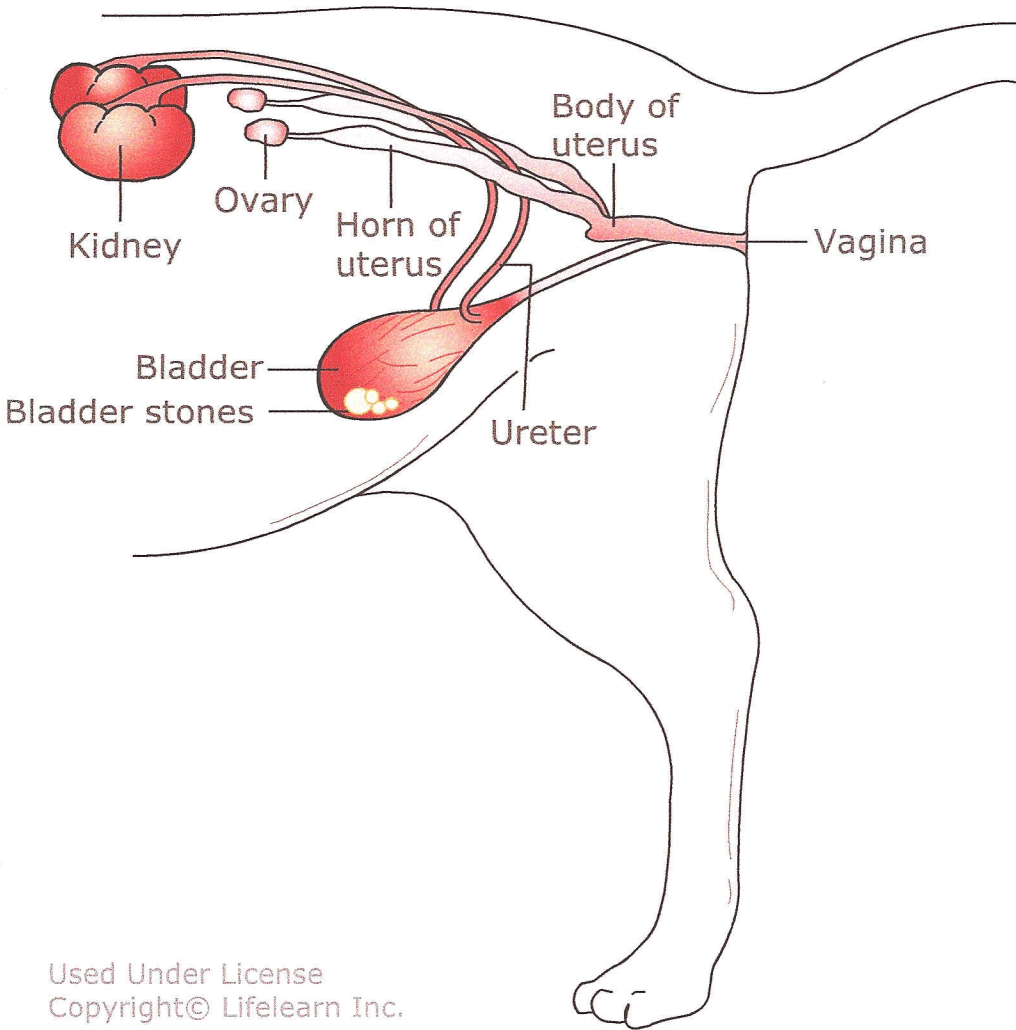


Bladder Stones - Female Cat: Formation of bladder stones.



Used Under License
Copyright© Lifelearn Inc.

Bladder stones or uroliths are rock-like collections of minerals that form in the urinary bladder. Normal urine contains low levels of dissolved minerals. If the concentration of minerals increases as a result of dietary excess, decreased water excretion, or disease, they eventually exceed a certain threshold and precipitate out of solution. The crystals clump together, forming stones of various sizes, from tiny particles to large stones. In the cat, bladder stones are rarely the result of an infection, but the inflammation they cause can lead to the development of a secondary infection. Bladder stones cause hematuria (blood in the urine) and dysuria (straining to urinate). Hematuria occurs when the stones rub on the bladder wall, causing bleeding. Swelling of the walls make it more difficult to pass urine, and pain further adds to the straining. Bladder stones may cause a partial or complete urinary obstruction, and can be life threatening. Further information about bladder stones can be found in our Client Education Handout Series.