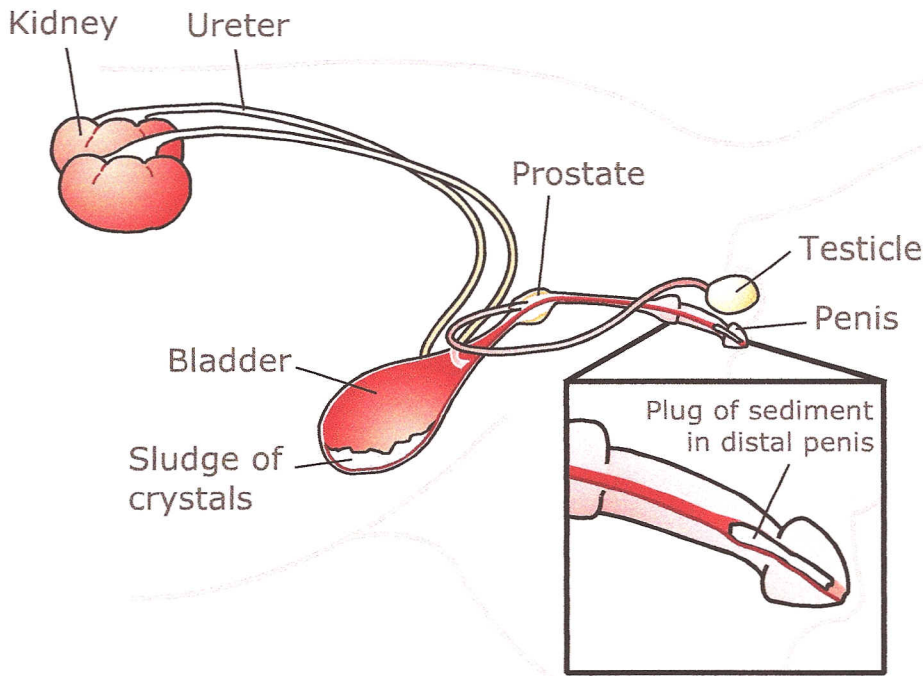


Bladder Stones and Sediment - Male Cat: Urinary tract obstruction.



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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 the solution. The crystals clump together, ranging in size from fine sediment to large stones. In the cat, bladder stones are rarely the result of an infection, but the inflammation they cause can lead to secondary infection. The crystals and stones cause irritation, which leads to straining. If the stones or sediment pass out of the bladder into the urethra, they will cause a urinary obstruction. In the male cat, one common site of obstruction is the tip of the penis, and the other is at the arch where the urethra curves up over the pelvis. A urinary obstruction is a life-threatening condition and can cause serious kidney damage or death within only a few short hours. Further information about bladder stones can be found in our Client Education Handout Series.