

Pyometra

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Overview

Pyometra is the medical term used to describe an infected uterus. This infection can be open (draining pus from the vagina) or closed (pus contained in the uterus by a closed cervix).

Pyometra can be a life threatening infection and may require emergency surgery. A closed pyometra is more of an emergency than an open pyometra, since there is no drainage of pus in a closed pyometra. If left untreated, pets become very ill and some may not survive. With early treatment, about 90 percent of affected pets recover.

Since pyometra is an infection of the uterus, all un-spayed dogs are susceptible. Usually, pyometra occurs within eight weeks of the dog's last heat cycle due to increased levels of the hormone progesterone.

Diagnosis and Treatment Notes:

- Pyometra is generally diagnosed by history, physical examination findings and abdominal x-rays. Bloodwork will help determine any concurrent disorders.
- Treatment depends on the severity of the disease, your individual pet, and your veterinarian. Surgery (spaying) is recommended for the majority of dogs with pyometra. Discuss treatment details when your pet is diagnosed with this condition.

What to Watch for*:

- Vaginal discharge
- Lethargy
- Lack of appetite
- Depression
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Drinking excessive amounts of water and urinating often

**Please notify us if you notice any of the above signs or if you have any questions!*

