

What are my feeding options for Garfield?

Q In February one of my cats, Garfield, was diagnosed with Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease (FLUTD). He had crystals in his urinary tract and was totally blocked so had to stay in the vets for a few days while they sorted him out.

For about two months afterwards he was on Hill's Prescription Diet s/d (both wet and dry) and now he is on the c/d version for maintenance. He is a lot better now, but I was wondering if there are any other suitable foods that he could have? I would prefer to feed a more 'natural' diet.

A It's very hard to answer your question without launching into a dissertation on the different types of FLUTD. Obviously, your vet is in the best position to advise you, based on your cat's history. I would just say that it is important to differentiate between crystals, which are usually normal, and calculi or stones, which are not.

I can't recommend anything better than getting hold of a booklet by two of the top experts on the subject in this country, 'Caring for a cat with lower urinary tract disease' by Dr Sarah Caney and Professor Daniëlle Gunn-Moore.* It offers a great explanation of a complex condition, but take your time and make sure you understand the different conditions. After you've read it all through, go back and have a chat to your vet about

diet. If your cat has had urolithiasis (stones), then he should really stay on the diet your vet has recommended, but idiopathic disease can often be best controlled by simply feeding good quality wet food. It is important to note too that some FLUTD-type conditions can be triggered by stress, so never make any sudden changes in the diet. ■

*Available from the *Your Cat* bookshop for £9.99 in paperback — see page 96.

Your Cat Bookshop



Feeding a good quality wet diet can help cats with idiopathic cystitis.