

ONE IN TEN CATS....

Dr Sarah Caney and Professor Daniëlle Gunn-Moore, two of the most respected feline veterinary specialists in the UK, have written a book that could literally be life changing for cat owners. The book, 'Caring for a Cat with Lower Urinary Tract Disease', addresses the needs of the one in ten indoor cats that suffer from this distressing and life threatening condition. At least one in 100 of all cats are likely to show signs of lower urinary tract disease (LUTD) at some point in their lives and it's a condition that frequently recurs, suggesting that there is a desperate need for this book; which is the third in the 'Cat Professional' series.

Cats with LUTD often urinate in inappropriate places and it may be tempting to think that a few little accidents are something that cat owners should be able to live with. It is obvious on reading this book that Professor Gunn-Moore and Dr Caney have not lost the human touch. The writers show great compassion and empathy for the cat owner, starting with an explanation of the emotions that may be experienced upon hearing of a cat's diagnosis, eventually moving on to a chapter on coping with issues such as euthanasia and bereavement. The understanding of LUTD has expanded in recent years and it is now understood to be an umbrella term that encompasses conditions such as feline idiopathic cystitis (FIC), urolithiasis, urethral plugs and a whole host of other causes of urinary disease. In the minds of many people this is still a problem associated with dry cat food, crystals and stones, yet the evidence suggests that FIC, which occurs in the absence of urinary calculi, accounts for more than 50 per cent of cases in young and middle aged cats.

Many vets and nurses find it difficult to explain what differentiates the various conditions involved in LUTD and this book is an excellent resource that will help owners to understand why various treatments have been recommended. As ever with the Cat Professional series of books there are many practical tips that make life with an affected cat much easier and it is worth having a book in every practice, cattery or rescue centre for this reason alone.

Vicky Halls RVN, a member of the Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors, author of 'Cat Confidential', 'Cat Detective', 'Cat Counsellor' and 'The Complete Cat', will be recommending the book to her clients, "The depth of the information makes it equally useful for veterinary nurses, cattery staff, breeders and re-homing charities. It also emphasises the need for practical lifestyle changes at home to manage FLUTD and gives excellent advice on subjects such as reducing stress in a multi-cat household and encouraging cats to drink. FLUTD is a complicated subject for owners to fully appreciate so it is wonderful, at last, to have one book that contains all the necessary information that can be recommended to everyone!"

Caring for a Cat with Lower Urinary Tract Disease is now available from www.catprofessional.com as an environmentally friendly download for just £7.00 or for £9.99 as a hard copy. German and Japanese translations of the book will be available later in the year.