

Ectopic Ureters

Ectopic ureters is a congenital defect involving the urinary system. The ureter is the tube that brings urine from the kidney to the bladder. In animals that have an ectopic ureter, the ureter does not empty into the bladder but instead bypasses the bladder and empties into the urethra or vagina. One or both ureters may be affected.

Pets with this condition are often incontinent (leak urine), have urine scald around their genitalia, and develop urinary tract infections.



Common appearance of a dog with ectopic ureters - note the urine staining around her hindquarters.

Your pet may have an ultrasound, radiographs with a special dye study (a urethrogram), or sometimes cystoscopy to identify the abnormal ureter or ureters. Abdominal surgery is performed and the abnormal ureter is attached to its normal position in the bladder. This surgery is best performed by a Board Certified Surgeon.

Some dogs with ectopic ureters also have urethral sphincter incompetence and may require long term medication to reduce incontinence.