**Path to Pet Wellness:** This dataset is an interesting look at the diagnosis of cats presented to their primary care veterinarians with lower urinary tract signs (LUTS). The main causes of both obstructive and nonobstructive LUTS in cats include feline interstitial cystitis, urolithiasis, urethral plugs, bacterial infection, anatomic abnormalities, and neoplasia.

From this data, only a small number of cats were identified as having feline urologic syndrome (FUS)—a term that historically had been used to describe cats with idiopathic LUTS with or without urethral obstruction (UO)—when all other causes have been excluded. This term has been largely replaced by feline idiopathic or interstitial cystitis (FIC), which may explain the low number of cats with the diagnosis of FUS.

The most common diagnosis in this dataset is cystitis, which likely includes cats with FIC as well as cats with bacterial cystitis. FIC is cited as the most common cause of LUTS in cats, which is similar to the data presented here. The literature on a gender predisposition to FIC has been conflicting with studies from the United States citing male and female cats affected equally, as noted in this dataset; however, recent studies from Europe and a large epidemiologic study from the U.S. have demonstrated a male predisposition.

Bacterial cystitis is a less common cause of LUTS and is cited to occur in 2% to 13% of cats. Consistent with the literature, UO was found to occur most commonly in young and mature adult male cats due to the narrow penile urethra, and rarely occurring in female cats. UO is diagnosed in approximately 22% to 55% of male cats presenting with LUTS.

As both recurrence of UO and idiopathic cystitis is common, it is possible that cats are represented more than once in this dataset. This data does not specifically identify cats diagnosed with urolithiasis, which may cause both obstructive and nonobstructive LUTS. In the most recent studies, urolithiasis was found in 29% to 55% of these cohorts in which intact animals tend to be younger than castrated and spayed animals.

**Prevalence of Select Urinary Diseases per 10,000 Cats Seen, Grouped by Age & Reproductive Status* (2015)***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age &amp; Reproductive Status</th>
<th>Population in Category</th>
<th>Urinary Tract Obstruction</th>
<th>Cystitisb</th>
<th>Feline Urologic Syndrome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All cats combined</td>
<td>498,061</td>
<td>48.1</td>
<td>239.5</td>
<td>24.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile (&lt; 1 year)</td>
<td>115,849</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>41.9</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young adult (1 to &lt; 3 years)</td>
<td>115,174</td>
<td>56.8</td>
<td>199.9</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mature adult (3 to &lt; 10 years)</td>
<td>192,779</td>
<td>74.5</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geriatric (&gt; 10 years)</td>
<td>103,059</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>318.8</td>
<td>13.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castrated male</td>
<td>223,967</td>
<td>97.9</td>
<td>256.5</td>
<td>39.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spayed female</td>
<td>222,235</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>258.9</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intact male</td>
<td>22,512</td>
<td>68.9</td>
<td>70.6</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intact female</td>
<td>27,345</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>88.1</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTES**

a. Age group and reproductive status totals will not match overall totals. Age groups are derived from visit age in 2015; some pets may have been counted in multiple age categories (eg, a pet that visited as a juvenile and then as a young adult in 2015). Reproductive status totals will not match due to animals of unknown sex or reproductive status.

b. The lower prevalence of cystitis in the intact group compared to the neutered group may be due to the age differences of these cohorts in which intact animals tend to be younger than castrated and spayed animals.

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This dataset is an interesting look at the diagnosis of cats presented to their primary care veterinarians with lower urinary tract signs (LUTS). The main causes of both obstructive and nonobstructive LUTS in cats include feline interstitial cystitis, urolithiasis, urethral plugs, bacterial infection, anatomic abnormalities, and neoplasia.

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**References**