

## A Doggy Problem That is More Common Than You Think...

### And That Your Vet May Be Able to Treat

**Incontinence is one of those subjects that many avoid talking about, however it is a relatively common problem, especially in older dogs and a variety of factors can contribute to it.**

If your dog suffers from involuntary loss of urine they will be just as, if not more, embarrassed than you are by the puddles on the floor, carpets or in bedding, as well as the unpleasant odour. They may also experience scalding of the skin from prolonged contact with the urine and an increased risk of urinary tract, bladder and kidney infections.

There are many causes of incontinence, but the good news is that help is at hand, because in a vast majority of cases incontinence is very treatable.

If your dog is leaving a few drops to a big puddle - get in touch with your local Vet. They will be able to assess your dog and run tests if necessary to rule out other possible causes such as; inflammation of the bladder, excess pressure on the bladder from obesity or behavioural problems. An important distinguishing feature of urinary incontinence, is the fact that this leaking is not under conscious control and the dog is not aware it is happening.



So while causes are being investigated by your Vet, try to be patient and remember that incontinence really isn't something your dog can help and any form of negative reaction should be avoided in response to spillages, to avoid further stress to your pet.

As for what to expect treatment wise, it may be as simple to resolve as using a daily medication, weight control or in rarer instances, a surgical procedure may be required. As with any long term condition, treatment plans are always tailored to your dog and monitored closely to ensure continued optimum response to treatments.

## Special Offers

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# Pet Tips for the Winter Weather

**While some pets seem unaffected by the cold winter months, certain breeds/species and older pets often need a little extra care and attention at this time of year. Below are a few tips to help keep your pet safe and comfortable this winter.**

- Refresh outside water bowls more frequently during cold snaps
- Always walk dogs on the lead when near water during periods of low temperatures. Ice does not always freeze evenly leaving weak spots in what may appear a solid surface. Even once temperatures rise, ice takes longer to defrost on larger expanses of water, while snow can mask the water's edge
- Dog coats are readily available in a wide variety of sizes, colours, styles and prices. This can make a dog that becomes resistant to being walked in the cold, enthusiastic again
- Reflective/LED collars and accessories are also readily available and can provide peace of mind when walking dogs off the lead in poorly lit areas or for locating the family cat that does not want to come in at night and is hiding in the garden
- Owners of mice, guinea pigs etc... as well as birds, should consider covering cages with a warm blanket over night to retain heat
- Increase ambient temperature in reptile tanks or move away from windows and doors
- Outside guinea pigs should be moved indoors for the winter months and you may want to consider moving outside rabbits into sheds or garages, plus you should always increase the amount of hay in your rabbits bedding area during winter. You can prevent water bottles from freezing by purchasing specially designed protective covers, however you should still inspect the spout daily for blockages
- Gritted paths and roads can cause contact allergies and make animals ill if the grit is consumed, so if you know your pet comes into contact with grit you should ensure you bathe their paws or protect them against contact using paw covers/boots.

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