

## **UROGENITAL EMERGENCIES**

**URINARY INFECTIONS/BLOCKAGES** –it may seem strange but the presenting signs for both of these are the same- straining to urinate. Certain breeds are predisposed to blockages, but any dog can have a problem. If your dog is straining and not producing any urine-- CALL VET. Generally, female dogs do not block, but they can certainly be uncomfortable. Male dogs are more likely to block. Dogs that strain and produce a little urine may just have an irritated bladder from infection—in this case, collect a urine specimen (refrigerate it) and try giving vitamin C or cranberry juice to lower urine pH.

**RUPTURED BLADDER**- This is not readily apparent and occurs after blunt trauma (HBC). Watch your dog for urination for several days after this sort of trauma. If not urinating --CALL VET.

**BREEDING EMERGENCIES**- Dogs being “tied” is a normal act of breeding- do not attempt to separate them. Occasionally, after breeding the male’s penis does not retract inside the protective sheath. A coating of K-Y jelly or vegetable oil may help, as well as a cold compress to reduce the engorgement. If the penis has not retracted into the sheath after an hour -- CALL VET.

**WHELPING EMERGENCIES**- Puppies are sometimes stuck in the birth canal and need help, but most of the time the bitch does better without our help. Gently pulling on a stuck pup with each contraction may deliver the pup. If the bitch has strong contractions for an hour with no puppy production- CALL VET. Being prepared can avoid many problems.