

**Excerpt from CatInfo.org - Dr. Lisa Pierson.....**

<http://catinfo.org/?link=urinarytracthealth>

For many years, struvite (magnesium, ammonium, and phosphorus) was the predominant mineral mixture found in cat urine due to the species-inappropriate level of grains in cat food. Knowing this, Man then stepped in and started acidifying commercial cat food with things like **dL-methionine** - instead of cutting into profit margin by removing the grains and going back to meat.

The so-called 'urinary tract formulas' were born.

Unfortunately, in trying to 'fix' a cat's unnatural alkaline urinary pH - caused by Man's greed in the first place - pet food manufacturers created even more problems by adding urinary acidifiers in the form of **dL-methionine**, etc., which led to the formation of calcium oxylate (CaO) crystals/stones in many cats. Suddenly, there were far more patients suffering with CaO crystals/stones than there were patients with struvite crystals/stones.

One of the most serious problems with this fact is that CaO stones can only be removed with surgery. There is no way to dissolve them with dietary manipulation. Struvite stones, on the other hand, are more amenable to dissolution with dietary manipulation.

Most stones found in the kidney are CaO and since we cannot dissolve them with dietary manipulation and since surgery to remove kidney stones (versus bladder stones) is not a safe option, it is easy to see how damaging the effects of feeding an acidifying diet can be if used for long periods of time.

Other systemic problems, including kidney damage and low potassium, can be seen in conjunction with the feeding of these acidifying diets, as well.