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Dear Doctor,

As Director of Canine Medicine and Surgery at The Seeing Eye, I am writing to you because one of our puppies is being presented to you for urinary tract signs.

Because the long term health of our dogs is extremely important for ensuring a positive working dog experience for our graduates, it is very important that we document and confirm any potential medical problems. For this reason, if you are suspicious of a possible urinary tract infection in one of our puppies, we ask you to do a cystocentesis for urine culture and sensitivity before starting any antibiotics. If signs are severe, it is fine to start them on antibiotics after obtaining the cysto sample while awaiting culture results.

We very commonly see juvenile vaginitis in our female puppies, which we typically do not treat. In some cases, however, it can be difficult to rule out a urinary tract infection versus juvenile vaginitis versus a housebreaking problem. If you are in doubt, please perform a cystocentesis to obtain urine for urinalysis and urine culture initially rather than treating empirically with antibiotics.

Thank you very much for adhering to our request. The Seeing Eye appreciates your support of our mission, which enhances the independence and dignity of blind people through the use of Seeing Eye dogs.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns regarding our request in regards to addressing urinary signs.

Sincerely,

Dolores M. Holle, V.M.D
Director, Canine Medicine & Surgery