

Perineal Urethrostomy for Urethral Obstruction

Your cat has undergone a procedure called a perineal urethrostomy. This means the penis has been removed, and a new exit hole has been made for the urine, just below the anus. The procedure is performed when a male cat repeatedly re-obstructs and cannot urinate on its own. The goal of this surgery is to create a larger opening for urination, so an obstruction does not occur again.

TEMPORARY LITTERBOX CHANGES

Regular cat litter contains dust that can contaminate the surgery site.

- *All litter boxes in your home should be emptied of litter, washed, and shredded newspaper should be used instead for 2 weeks.*
- Many cats prefer paper litter pellets to shredded paper. Yesterday's News® is a popular choice available at many pet shops.
- Keep the litter boxes clean during recovery to encourage use.

DIET AND MEDICATIONS

Follow the recommendations from your veterinarian. Antibiotics are generally recommended for 14 days following surgery.

ACTIVITY RESTRICTIONS

- Your cat should not run, jump, or play for the 2 weeks following surgery.
- Confine your cat to one level of your home during this period.
- Even if your cat normally goes outside, he should remain inside for 2 weeks.

INCISION CARE & MONITORING

- The incision may bleed occasionally during the first week following surgery. As a result, blood in the urine and oozing around the incision is expected.
- *Do not* clean the incision. A blood clot or scab will develop in the area. Cleaning off the clot will cause irritation and may delay healing and encourage scarring at the surgical site.
- *It is very important that your cat does not disturb the incision for 2 weeks.* An Elizabethan collar (lampshade collar) is required for your cat during this time to prevent him from grooming and to allow the incision to heal.
- *Urine scald* can be avoided by spreading a thin layer of petroleum jelly (Vaseline or Vitamin A & D ointment) on the skin surrounding the incision for 1-2 weeks. Do not apply the ointment directly to the incision or on the new urethral opening.

RECOVERY MONITORING & COMPLICATIONS AFTER SURGERY

Re-obstruction or an inability to urinate again and *urine leaking under the skin* at the surgical site are serious complications to monitor for in the short term. Signs to watch for include: significant bruising and swelling around the site and down the back of the legs or straining and an inability to urinate. Please call and return for a progress exam immediately if you notice these changes.

PROGRESS EXAM

Please return for recheck examination with your veterinarian in ~14 days. The *sutures* you see will need to be *removed 14 days* following surgery. *Sedation may be required* for suture removal, as the site can be sensitive and difficult to work around. Your veterinarian will assess your pet's healing and recovery and address any questions you may have at that time. If the incision has healed, your cat may groom the incision once the sutures have been removed.

LONG TERM COMPLICATIONS

- Urinary tract infection can occur in cats after this procedure. If you notice straining, frequent urination, blood in the urine, or urination outside the litter box, call for advice. A urine sample may be required to look for bladder infection.
- In very rare instances, the new hole may *stricture*, or shrinks down, despite our best efforts at surgery. If this occurs, your cat may strain to urinate again. In rare instances a revision surgery may be required to correct this problem. Call your veterinarian if this occurs.
- *If at any time you think your cat cannot urinate, call your veterinarian for a recheck appointment. If it is after normal business hours, go to an emergency hospital.*

Most cats do very well after having this surgery. Although many cats require dietary changes to help prevent stone or crystal reformation, further surgical procedures are rarely needed. Most importantly, your cat will now live a more comfortable lifestyle.