PERINEAL URETHROSTOMY IN CATS: AT HOME CARE

Your cat has had surgery to increase the diameter of the urethra permanently. This surgery is usually performed on male cats that have had recurrence of or persistently obstructed urinary outflow. This is usually because of obstruction with urinary calculi (stones/mineral deposits) that get stuck in the urethra where it narrows in the penis. The main aim of the surgery is to widen the urethra so stones can’t get stuck again. To reduce the risk of complications, it is essential to follow these instructions.

Medications

- Anti-inflammatory: __________________________
  Packet label instructions should be followed.

Algesia:
- Fentanyl patch
- Buprenorphine patch
- Buprenorphine oral tablets
- Buprenorphine oral liquid

- Antibiotics: __________________________
  Packet label instructions should be followed.

Post-operative care

- Keep Elizabethan collar on for 2 weeks. The surgery site is very fragile and cats tongues are as rough as sandpaper, so if they lick the surgery site, it will break down.
- Keep your cat quiet and confined to a small room.
- Use commercial paper cat litter or shredded paper, as it doesn’t tend to stick to the surgery site as do crystals, clay, dirt, etc.
- Monitor the surgery site daily. It is normal for a bit of a blood clot to be at the site for the first few days – do not remove this, as it can cause further bleeding. If the surgery site doesn’t look ok to you, please make an appointment with your regular vet.
- Monitor you cats toileting habits daily – urination should be observed and reported to your regular vet if you are at all concerned.

- If non-absorbable sutures were used, please make an appointment to have them removed in 10 to 14 days. Most cats require sedation for this. Fast your cat after 10pm the night before. Access to water is fine up until 7am. You may need to place the Elizabethan collar back on for 1-2 days after suture removal.

Long term management

- Urine assessment is essential to determine the presence and type of crystals. Abdominal ultrasound and/or radiographs are useful to determine the presence of calculi ("bladder stones"). The composition of the calculi influences the management.
- Although the surgery dramatically reduces the chance of urethral obstruction from calculi, special diets are advised long term to reduce the likelihood of future crystal and calculus reformation.
- Water intake is encouraged to keep urine dilute to reduce the likelihood of calculus reformation. For the same reason, wet foods are preferred.
- The surgery alters the anatomy of the end of the urethra. As a consequence, the normal defence mechanisms against bacteria are also altered, which increases the risk of urinary tract infections. Your cat should be regularly assessed for occult urinary tract infections and treated accordingly. Early detection and treatment carries a very good prognosis.
- Your cat will now urinate through a larger opening. However, a stricture can form at the surgery site, which may necessitate more surgery. Fortunately, this is rare. Most cats make an excellent recovery and go to live a normal life.