



Postoperative care after Perineal Urethrostomy

1. Exercise restrictions

Your cat needs to be kept indoors during the recovery phase (2-3 weeks).

2. Some swelling and bruising of the wound is normal.

You should become concerned that your pet may have an infection if the wound becomes very swollen or if a yellow or green discharge is observed. If you observe this, you should contact your veterinarian. Dark bruising in the skin around and beneath the surgery site may be seen following this particular procedure.

3. What is a normal postoperative course?

Your cat should urinate at least once per day. If he appears to be having trouble urinating, please call for advice. It is not unusual to see some blood in the urine or to see some blood around the wound area after urinating for up to 2 weeks after surgery. An Elizabethan collar will be in place around his neck following surgery. It is very important that you leave this in place to prevent him from chewing the sutures out. He should be able to eat and drink with it on. If the collar comes off, it should be put back on immediately.

4. Other information

The timing of suture removal is very important. Generally sutures are removed in 10-12 days and most cats require sedation for this. Plan to make an appointment with your veterinarian and fast your cat after 10pm the night before. Water is O.K up until the appointment. You may need to place the Elizabethan collar back on for 1-2 days after suture removal especially if your cat continues to lick excessively at the surgery site.

Recommendations about cat litter:

It is recommended that your cat utilize a special paper litter to urinate in until the sutures are removed. Prior to suture removal, you may notice a build up of hair around the sutures; you should not try to remove this.

Long term considerations:

Your cat will now urinate through a larger opening, which minimizes the chances of obstruction occurring again. Occasionally a stricture can form at the site, which

requires additional surgery. Fortunately, this is rare. It may be possible to minimize the chances of recurrence by altering your cat's diet. You should discuss this with your veterinarian. Your cat will be more prone to urinary infections in the future, and should be evaluated for this periodically by your veterinarian.

Stephen Van Lue, DVM, DACVS

svanlue@vanluevetsurg.com