



## **Postoperative care after Urethrostomy**

### **1. Exercise restrictions**

Your pet needs to be kept indoors during the recovery phase (2-3 weeks), and should be limited to leash walking only to go outside for urinating/defecating.

### **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?**

It is not unusual to see some blood in the urine or to see some blood/bruising around the wound area after urinating for up to 2 weeks after surgery. An Elizabethan collar will be placed around his/her neck following surgery. It is very important that you leave this in place to prevent your pet from chewing the sutures out. Your dog 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 many pets require sedation for this. Plan to make an appointment with your veterinarian and fast your pet after 10pm the night before your suture removal appt. 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 pet continues to lick excessively at the surgery site.

Long term considerations:

Your pet will now urinate through a larger opening, which decreases the chances of obstruction. However, the surgery does NOT prevent the reformation of urine crystals/stones. Therefore, any dietary/medical therapy recommendations by your veterinarian should be strictly adhered to! Occasionally a stricture can form at the site, which requires additional surgery. Fortunately, this is rare. Your pet will be more prone to urinary infections in the future, and should be evaluated for this periodically by your veterinarian.

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