



## **Postoperative care after Urethrotomy**

### **1. Exercise restrictions**

Your pet 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 pet should urinate at least twice per day. If he/she 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/her neck following surgery. It is very important that you leave this in place to prevent chewing the sutures out. He/she 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. Sometimes, there are NO sutures placed in the urethrotomy incision. In this case, healing will occur by second intention (as an open wound that closes over time) Plan to make an appointment with your veterinarian and fast your pet after 10pm the night before if sutures are to be removed. 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:

Occasionally a stricture can form at the site, which requires additional surgery. Fortunately, this is rare. Dietary adjustments and specific medical therapy may be recommended pending analysis of the stones recovered at surgery.

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