

# Perineal Urethrostomy

Male cats suffering from recurrent urinary tract obstructions or inflammatory signs, which are unresponsive to medical management, are candidates for perineal urethrostomy. This is a surgical procedure where the end of the penis is removed.

Male cats have a urethra that is long and narrows at the end. This can become blocked with stones/crystals, blood clots, mucous or they experience spasming. Most cats that have a perineal urethrostomy will have had a history of Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease (FLUTD). This commonly affects male neutered cats, overweight cats, multi-cat households, indoor cats and cats that are naturally anxious.

The aim of surgery is to alleviate clinical signs and reduce the risk of future urinary obstruction however, it does not stop cats from developing FLUTD and changes should be implemented in the home to try and prevent FLUTD from reoccurring in the future.

## **Surgery:**

The external genitalia are removed and the urethra sutured to the skin at its widest point. This allows a wide opening to ease passing of urine and/or stones and crystals.

## **Post-Operative Care:**

There will be sutures to maintain the new stoma (opening). These will need to be removed in 10-14 days time and occasionally sedation is required to do so.

Some bloody urine for 1-3 days after surgery is common.

Shredded newspaper should be used for litter to prevent clumping while the wound is healing. If possible, applying Vaseline to the skin around the new opening will prevent scalding and skin irritation.

An appropriate urinary diet will help reduce crystal/stone formation and provision of plenty of fresh water will help dissolve crystals.

Your vet may recommend dietary supplements as appropriate.

## **Wound care:**

Please check this area twice daily, there should not be any pain, swelling, redness or discharge from the wound. A buster collar should be used to prevent interference for the first 10-14 days after surgery.

## **Outcome:**

Outcomes are usually good, however there are some ongoing management requirements. Clumping litter is best avoided and there is a slightly increased risk of urinary tract infections in the future. Increasing water consumption, weight control, increasing exercise and reducing stress are all management factors that can help control future episodes of FLUTD.

## **Risks and Complications:**

All surgeries have potential complications. Approximately 3-5% of patients develop a post-operative infection. Perianal irritation is usually transient.

