

## Scrotal Urethrostomy for Urethral Obstruction

Your dog has undergone a procedure called a scrotal urethrostomy. This means a new exit hole has been made for the urine, below the anus and between the rear legs. The procedure is performed when a male dog repeatedly re-obstructs and cannot urinate on its own. The goal of this surgery is to create a larger opening for urination, so an obstruction does not occur again.

### DIET AND MEDICATIONS

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### ACTIVITY RESTRICTIONS

- Your dog should not run, jump, or play for the 2 weeks following surgery.
- Confine your dog to one level of your home during this period.

### INCISION CARE & MONITORING

- The incision may bleed occasionally during the first week following surgery. As a result, blood in the urine and oozing around the incision is expected. Initially confine your pet to an area of the home where intermittent dripping of bloody urine will not be a management issue.
- Do not clean the incision. A blood clot or scab will develop in the area. Cleaning off the clot will cause irritation and may delay healing and encourage scarring at the surgical site.
- *It is very important that your dog does not disturb the incision for 2 weeks.* An Elizabethan collar (lampshade collar) is required for your dog during this time to prevent him from grooming and to allow the incision to heal.
- Urine scald can be avoided by spreading a thin layer of petroleum jelly (Vaseline) on the skin surrounding the incision for 1-2 weeks. Do not apply the Vaseline directly to the incision or on the new urethral opening.

### RECOVERY MONITORING & COMPLICATIONS AFTER SURGERY

Potentially the most dangerous complications of this surgery are urine leaking under the skin or re-obstruction of the new urethral opening. Although these complication are very serious, it is fortunately, very rare. Signs to watch for include:

- Significant bruising and swelling around the surgical site
- Straining to urinate, or an inability to urinate

*Please call and return for a progress exam if you notice these changes*

### PROGRESS EXAM

Please return for recheck examination with your veterinarian in ~14 days. They will assess your pet's healing and recovery and address any questions you may have at that time. The *sutures* you see will need to be removed *14 days* following surgery. *Sedation* may be required for suture removal, as the site can be sensitive and difficult to work around.

### LONG TERM COMPLICATIONS

- Urinary infection can occur in dogs after this procedure. If you notice straining, frequent urination, blood in the urine, or inappropriate urination habits, please have your pet reevaluated.
- In very rare instances, the new opening may stricture, or shrinks down, despite our best. If this occurs, your dog may strain to urinate again. On rare occasions a revision of the scrotal urethrostomy site may be necessary.
- If at any time you think your dog cannot urinate, call your veterinarian for a recheck appointment. If it is after normal business hours, go to an emergency hospital.

Most dogs do very well after having this surgery. Many pets require dietary changes to help prevent stone or crystal reformation. The surgical procedure will not prevent reformation of bladder stones but it should prevent blockage of urination from occurring again. Most small bladder stones can now be expelled out the larger urethra opening following this surgery. Scrotal urethrostomy is an effective tool for managing recurrent bladder stone formation in the male dog.