

# Informed Consent

## Cystotomy (Incision Into the Bladder) Or Cystectomy (Removal of Part of the Bladder)

You have elected to have your pet undergo a surgical procedure called a cystotomy, where an incision is made into the bladder (for example, to remove stones, obtain a biopsy sample or culture). If a portion of the bladder is removed (usually for a mass or tumor, or if part of the bladder is diseased or devitalized) that is called a partial cystectomy. Fortunately, the bladder heals very well. However, it must maintain a fluid-tight closure until it heals. The prognosis with surgery is generally very good to excellent. However, complications occur in about 15% of patients. Below, the general risks of abdominal surgery are outlined, followed by those specific to cystotomy/cystectomy procedures. Let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

### Abdominal Surgery Risks

Skin incision infection- this is a risk with any surgery, and usually treatable with oral antibiotic therapy

Damage to abdominal structures- this could cause bleeding, or contamination by contents of the intestines

Adhesion formation (scar tissue formation in the abdomen)- scar tissue can impact the tissues in the abdomen in the future

Peritonitis- this is a rare but serious infection within the abdomen. If this occurs, additional therapies will likely be recommended.

Abdominal wall dehiscence (opening)- this can occur when the incision line used to close the abdominal wall fails. At first, the abdominal contents may stay covered by skin and subcutaneous tissue. However, once the abdominal incision fails, surgical revision is recommended. If the abdominal contents become exposed, emergency intervention is required.

Abdominal foreign body- very rarely, sponges or even instruments can be left in the abdominal cavity during surgery. We take precautions to ensure this doesn't happen, but it is possible.

### Cystotomy/Cystectomy

Leakage from the bladder incision site (dehiscence)- if the incision in the bladder leaks, the urine ends up in the abdomen and that causes irritation and infection. Revision surgery is recommended.

Recurrence of any tumor- if the underlying cause was a tumor, we remove as much as possible and as much as we can see and feel, but tumors are made up of cells we cannot see or feel. There could be tumor cells that remain in the surgical site or abdomen, that could spread after surgery, causing another tumor.

Recurrence of stones/failure to remove all the stones- if a cystotomy was performed to remove bladder stones, they may recur unless the underlying cause is treated. Unfortunately, not all urinary stone reformation can be prevented, even with good medical and surgical treatment.

Ureter damage- the ureters are the tubes that drain the urine from the kidneys to the bladder. If damage occurs, additional surgeries may be needed.

Urethra damage- if damage to the urethra occurs, additional procedures may be needed.

Hemorrhage (bleeding) and hematuria (bloody urine)- is common and can be profuse, but is generally a short-term issue and rarely life threatening

Urinary tract infection- this can occur with any urinary tract surgery and may require antibiotics

Reduced bladder volume- if partial cystectomy is performed, the bladder will be smaller than normal after surgery. Usually the bladder will stretch out over time, but this takes time and until then, your pet will likely need to urinate frequently and in small volumes.