

Informed Consent

Scrotal Urethrostomy

Your pet has been diagnosed with a condition leading to propensity to develop bladder/urethral stones. After these stones form in the bladder, they often lodge in the urethra, specifically just behind the os penis and they cause obstruction to the flow of urine. While medical therapy can sometimes relieve the obstruction (blockage) in the short term, you have elected a more permanent surgical therapy, called a scrotal urethrostomy. The goal of surgery is to form a new exit from the urethra. The new opening is “upstream” of the os penis and the narrower parts of the urethra. This allows a wider opening, where your pet may pass these smaller urinary stones that may otherwise obstruct the flow of urine. The prognosis is generally excellent (10% complication rate) after scrotal urethrostomy surgery. However, we need to make you aware of the risks and complications associated with this surgery. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

Stricture (narrowing) of the urethra- the goal of surgery is to widen the urethra. However, if healing doesn't occur as expected and/or scar tissue affects the healing process, the diameter of the urethra may become too narrow. This can lead to the same signs you have observed previously, when your dog had blocked. Revision surgery is recommended.

Leakage of urine in the subcutaneous tissues- closure of the tissues should create a watertight seal. If it doesn't, urine may leak into the tissues and additional therapies may be needed.

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

Urine scald- the skin in the region of the new opening is not used to urine exposure and urine scald may result. Usually this is temporary but monitoring and keeping the skin clean and dry is recommended. Use of Vaseline or Vitamin A&D ointment around the incision can help mitigate the urine scalding signs.

Recurrent obstruction- if large stones form in the urinary bladder, they may still have the potential to cause obstruction.

Hemorrhage (bleeding)- is common and can be profuse, but is generally short lived and rarely life threatening.