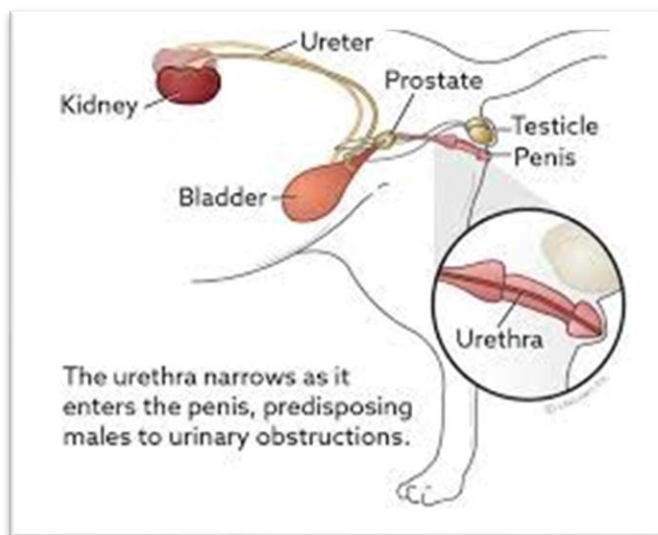


Perineal Urethrostomy (PU)

The Procedure

Perineal urethrostomy is performed in male cats who have had recurrent urinary obstruction that is minimally responsive, or unresponsive, to medical management.

The urethra carries urine from the bladder to outside the body. The female cat urethra has a relatively short and uniform diameter. In the male cat, the urethra is slightly longer, but it also narrows as it enters the penis. This narrowing predisposes male cat to urinary obstruction whereby the urethra becomes blocked, and urine is unable to exit the body.



The blockage may be due to mucus, blood clots, stones, urethral spasm and in rare cases, tumours. Perineal urethrostomy creates a new opening for the urethra that reduces the urethral length, and allows urine to bypass the narrowed region. The aim of the surgery is to decrease the likelihood of further urinary obstruction.

Surgical Site - This will need to be protected from interference from your pet to minimise complications. This means that a buster collar will need to be worn for the duration of time that the skin needs to heal (10-14 days).

The wound will need to be checked twice a day. If you have any concerns about the appearance of the wound (increased swelling, discharge, blood or loss of sutures), please do contact your vet.

Medication - This will be detailed on a separate post operative discharge sheet.

Post operative checks - 3 days post operatively to check the surgical site and 10 days post operatively to check the surgical site, and remove skin sutures if present - this may require sedation due to the sensitive area that they are placed.

Exercise - As the tissue heals, we would recommend crate rest with constant access to a litter tray, especially as a buster collar will need to be worn whilst the stitches are present.

Post operative expectations and potential complications

The aim of the surgery is to decrease the likelihood of further urinary obstruction. As with all surgical procedures, complications can happen and would include:

- Surgical site infection
- Surgical site wound breakdown (often associated with infection or patient interference)
- Re-obstruction due to
 - Stricture formation where scar tissue forms near the surgical site.
 - Recurrent urethral spasm.
 - Formation of large stones.

Cats who have had this surgery are at a slightly higher risk of urinary infection (due to ascending infection – bacteria tracking up the urethra), therefore monthly urine checks may be required initially.

Signs of cystitis (increased squatting in a litter tray) can continue, but should not progress to blockage.

If your cat has urinary crystals, a special diet will be continued to prevent their formation even after surgery.

With appropriate pre surgical stabilisation, surgery and aftercare, the prognosis for patients who undergo perineal urethrostomy is good.