

## **Post-operative Information: Cystotomy**

Your pet has had a cystotomy performed to explore the bladder and remove abnormal tissues or stones. This involved opening the abdomen and then the bladder; the bladder and urethra were evaluated for abnormalities and then the bladder was sutured closed. The bladder heals very rapidly, so is expected to be strong and functioning normally within 1-2 weeks. After bladder surgery, the inflammation created by the incisions and manipulation will make your pet feel like he/she has to urinate frequently; this will subside over the next week or so. No long-term problems are expected following a cystotomy, although stone disease (if present) can be recurrent.

### **ACTIVITY RESTRICTIONS**

- Please keep your pet in a comfortable, safe indoor location for the next 24 hours until he/she is very steady on his/her feet. Do not allow free access to stairs.
- Your pet may be groggy for the next few days. He or she may whine or appear more anxious than usual; this may indicate pain/discomfort or side-effects of the medications. Please call your veterinarian for assistance with medication adjustments or return for exam and additional pain medications as needed.
- Avoid any rigorous activity for 2 weeks. Short, leashed walks are fine.
- Monitor appetite and attitude. If both do not steadily improve over the next 2-3 days, please call your veterinarian or return for progress evaluation and problem-solving.
- You can expect your pet to have urgency to urinate frequently and to have blood-tinged urine for 1-2 weeks. Please allow frequent access to the outdoors to urinate. If your pet has accidents in the house, please understand that he/she likely could not prevent it during this recovery period—have patience. If this increased frequency or bloody urine continues beyond 2 weeks, please return to your veterinarian for evaluation.

### **INCISION CARE**

- Please look at the incision on your pet's abdomen twice daily. It should be dry, slightly red along the margins, and slightly swollen/thick on the edges. Over several days, it should lose redness and swelling.
- Problems to call your veterinarian about:
  - gapping (the edges should be exactly touching)
  - discharge (other than small amount of crusting)
  - swelling (other than slightly raised skin near edges).Some bruising is normal and will resolve in 5-7 days.

- Do not allow your pet to lick or chew the incision. Pets tend to want to lick early in the healing period and this can compromise the incision and predispose to infection. If necessary, please use an E-collar if you must leave your pet unattended.

#### TESTS PENDING

- If there were any stones removed, they will be submitted for analysis of their composition. Specific dietary modifications and therapy recommendations will be determined from this result. Your veterinarian will contact you with stone results in 2-4 weeks and will make any treatment changes as needed.
- If there were any tissues removed for biopsy analysis, they will be submitted and results will be available in 5-7 days. Your veterinarian will contact you with biopsy results and will make any treatment changes as needed.

#### DIET

- (If stones were removed...) Until stone analysis results are returned, please follow the following general recommendations:
  - Encourage water consumption. Provide easy access to fresh water daily. Add ½-1 cup of water to food daily.
  - Avoid any dietary supplements (i.e. vitamins, etc.) or edible treats (i.e. biscuits, rawhide, etc.)

#### PROGRESS EXAMS

- Please return to your primary care veterinarian in 10-14 days for a progress exam. Skin healing will be evaluated, sutures (if present) will be removed, and any questions you have or tests needing follow-up will be addressed.