

## Post-Operative Instructions: Perineal Urethrostomy

### Summary:

Thank you for trusting your cat to our surgical care. Your cat has had general anesthesia and surgery for perineal urethrostomy. This is a procedure which involves amputation of the distal urethra and anastomosis to the outside skin. Cats generally do very well after surgery as long as they are not allowed to lick or scratch at the area. Therefore, it is **critical** to maintain the Elizabethan collar until suture removal in two weeks. Please follow the instructions below for your cat's continued care at home.

### Recovery Instructions:

#### 1. Activity:

- You will need to keep your cat indoors while his/her incision is healing. This healing phase is typically 14 days. You should keep your cat in an area with a litter box so that you can regularly monitor for urine output.

#### 2. Incision:

- You must not allow your cat to lick, mutilate or attack the incision line. This is critical as these behaviors may compromise the integrity of the surgery. Allowing your cat to damage the incision may require another, potentially less-satisfactory, surgery.
- *Under no circumstances should you remove the E-collar prior to suture removal at 2 week post-surgery!* Your cat will almost certainly resent the collar for several days but, nonetheless, is perfectly capable of eating, drinking and playing while wearing it.

#### 3. Medications:

- Give all medications as directed and call us if you believe your pet is having an adverse reaction to any of the prescriptions.
- Possible side effects of antibiotics include vomiting, diarrhea and/or decreased appetite. If you observe any of these signs please call.

#### 4. Food:

- Your pet should have access to water at all times and eat his/her normal diet.
- Do not overfeed as this may cause vomiting or diarrhea. Please report any vomiting immediately.
- Your pet should be fed multiple smaller meals throughout the day rather than one or two large meals. You should continue this feeding schedule for the remainder of your pet's lifetime.
- Continue providing your pet's normal diet until we perform a recheck urinalysis 4 weeks postoperatively. If, at the initial surgery, we are successful at retrieving urinary stones, then we will wait for the stone analysis to return in 3-4 weeks to make any further dietary recommendations.

#### 5. Recovery:

- Please remember that the P.U. surgery does not treat the underlying problem of crystal formation. A P.U. simply enlarges the opening so that subsequent crystal formation no longer results in urethral obstruction. As we discussed, allowing crystals to continue to form will ultimately lead to stone formation. Large stones will *not* be able to pass through a P.U. site. To prevent further urethral

obstruction we recommend regular recheck urinalyses with your family veterinarian. The first recheck urinalysis should be performed one month after surgery.

**6. Recheck:**

- Please make an appointment and plan to leave your pet for a short portion of the day 2 weeks after the date of surgery. Most cats require sedation to have these sutures removed so please do not feed him/her the morning of this appointment.

**7. Questions:**

- a. Our foremost interest is achieving as rapid and as complete a recovery as possible for your friend: do not hesitate to call if you have any questions or concerns.