

**Foster Office:** (303) 751-5772 Ext 7290

**Foster Emergency Line:** (720) 334-1422

### **Perineal Urethrostomy in Cats: Post-Operative Care in the Foster Home**

This cat has had a perineal urethrostomy, a surgery to create a new opening from the urethra through the perineal skin. The cat's long, narrow urethra was shortened by amputating the tip of the penis, leaving the cat with a short and wider urethra, similar to a female cat. This surgery is usually performed in male cats that have a urinary blockage, and the goal of this surgery is to make the urethral opening larger to prevent the recurrence of a urinary blockage. The healing phase is about 14 days. Please follow the instructions below to reduce the risk of complications.

- **Incision**

- **Always keep the e-collar on.** The surgical site is very fragile and cats have sandpaper-like tongues. Any licking of the surgical site can cause the sutures to come apart or the urethral opening to scar. It is extremely important that the cat does not lick or scratch the surgical site until it is completely healed.
- Examine the surgical site twice daily. It is normal to have some redness, swelling and blood clots/crusts at the site. **Do not clean or disturb the surgical site.**
- Absorbable sutures were used so there is no need for suture removal.

- **Activity**

- Keep the cat in a quiet small area with a litter box and away from other animals.
- Prevent any jumping, climbing, or running activities (upstairs, on the furniture).

- **Urination**

- **Only commercial paper cat litter (Yesterday's news) or shredded paper should be used.** Other types of litter can stick to the incision or contain dust that can irritate the surgical site. Clean the litterbox frequently to encourage frequent usage. Make litterbox readily available.
- Frequent small urinations are typical in the early healing period. The inflammation caused by the previous obstruction and surgery can make the cat feel like he has to urinate frequently. A tendency to strain to urinate and have blood tinged urine are also expected. These should subside gradually.
- Please monitor the cat's toileting habits and let us know during rechecks if you see the following: straining to urinate, vocalizing when urinating, urinating small amounts frequently, and/or urinating outside of the litterbox.

- **Diet**

- Only feed Hill's c/d stress canned diet. No treats. The diet only works if it is fed exclusively. If the cat refuses to eat c/d stress canned food, the next best option would be c/d stress dry, regular c/d wet or dry.
- Ensure adequate water intake to help maintaining hydration and a regular flow of dilute urine. Provide easy access to fresh water daily. If possible, place multiple water dishes around your home as this may encourage the cat to drink more frequently.

- **Please notify the Foster Department if any one of the following signs are observed. You will likely need to come into the shelter for an appointment or seek emergency care if after hours.**

- No urine output within 24 hours or if you are unsure about urine output
- Intense pain/ crying out during urination
- Wound dehiscence (the incision comes apart and leaves a gap between the urethral mucosa and the skin)
- Yellow or green discharge from the surgical site
- Bruising and swelling that extend down the back legs
- Vomiting, painful abdomen, lethargy, anorexia

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**Thank you for opening your home and your heart to this cat in need!**

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