

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, manipulating the bladder, and then the bladder was sutured closed. The bladder heals rapidly, so is expected to be strong and functioning normally within 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 with possible blood in the urine. This will subside over the next week or so. No long-term problems are expected following a cystotomy, although stone disease can be recurrent if medical advice is not followed.

After anesthesia some animals cannot regulate their body temperatures, so keep your pet inside for at least 24 hours. Take your dog out on a leash to use the bathroom. Please keep your pet calm for the next 7 days. Give the prescribed pain medication and/or antibiotics as directed.

**Activity:** Avoid free running (should be on leash) or jumping, swimming or bathing for 10 to 14 days after the surgery or until the sutures are removed, if necessary. If a bandage is present patient should avoid getting the bandage wet until removal.

**Diet:** Offer a small amount of food and water when you get your pet home. Your pet will likely need to be on a strict prescription diet following a bladder stone removal. Please be sure to consult with your veterinarian if you have any questions regarding appetite stimulation post-op. If your pet has no problem keeping food down, continue to offer small amounts every few hours. Resume normal feeding with their regular food the next day. Anesthesia can cause stomach upset, so getting your pet to eat as soon as possible can help prevent this. If your pet hasn't eaten or drank anything for 48 hours after getting home, please report this to us.

If your pet has trouble reaching their food and water dishes, you can elevate the bowls with an old phone book or something of the sort. You may need to hand feed your pet for a few days to get them used to wearing the e-collar. **DO NOT** remove the e-collar even for feedings.

**Medications:** You should be informed when to start medication, if any is prescribed. Directions for medications are printed on each bottle. Please observe recommendations for giving with food if stated.

**Incision Care:** Please check the incision daily for 7 days or until the sutures are removed. There may be a small amount of discharge and bleeding from the incision site. This is normal. It will subside within 48-72 hours after surgery. Some redness and a little bruising are normal consequences of surgery and healing. If the incision becomes painful, opens, or discharges pus or blood, please contact a veterinarian. **DO NOT** allow your pet to lick, chew, rub or pull at the incision. Allowing your pet to irritate the area will cause damage to healing tissue and will require further medical attention at your expense. The healing process can be itchy and your pet may do harm if given access while the area heals. If you were not provided an E-collar but your pet is reaching the incision please purchase one from a pet store or contact us to purchase one.

For some surgeries, there are no skin sutures to remove. If external sutures/staples are present we ask you to make an appointment for 10 to 13 days post-op for us to remove them.

**Prevention:** It is recommended to consult with your full-service vet about a dietary change and regular urinalysis to help prevent further stone formation. If a stone analysis was done, the results will take 4-6 weeks and can be emailed to you upon request for you to take to your full-service vet.

If any of the following conditions occurs, please contact your regular veterinarian or local emergency animal clinic immediately:

- Loss of appetite for more than two days.
- Refusal to drink water for more than 24 hours.
- Vomiting for more than 24 hours.
- Diarrhea for more than 24 hours.
- If the incision opens.

Please note, Dr. Kelly's Surgical Unit is not responsible for any costs associated with post-op veterinary care. Dr. Kelly's Surgical Unit will not reimburse you for any post-op veterinary care resulting from not following these instructions. Please call Dr. Kelly's Surgical Unit if you have concerns. We will try to return your call in a timely manner, but we do not offer 24-hour emergency veterinary services. If you need emergency care, please consult your private Vet, or seek care at an Emergency Animal Hospital. Here is a list of hospitals that may be able to give you assistance:

#### West Valley Emergency Hospitals

- Blue Pearl @ 2260 W Glendale Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85021 (602) 995-3757
- 1st Pet Veterinary Centers @ 520 W Union Hills Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85027 (623) 849-0700
- Blue Pearl @ 9875 W Peoria Ave, Peoria, AZ 85345 (623) 974-1520
- Blue Pearl @ 13034 W Rancho Santa Fe Blvd, Avondale, AZ 85392 (623) 385-4555
- VCA Phoenix West @ 6530 W Indian School Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85033 (623) 846-5965

#### East Valley Emergency Hospitals:

- Blue Pearl @ 86 W Juniper Ave, Gilbert, AZ 85233 (480) 497-0222
- 1st Pet @ 1233 W Warner Rd, Chandler, AZ 85224 (480) 732-0018
- 1st Pet @ 5404 E Southern Ave, Mesa, AZ 85206 (480) 924-1123
- VCA Emergency Center @ 1648 N Country Club Dr, Mesa, AZ 85201 (480) 898-0001
- Scottsdale Veterinary Clinic @ 7311 E Thomas Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85251 (480) 945-8484