



Birchwood Animal Hospital

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BIRCHWOOD ANIMAL HOSPITAL

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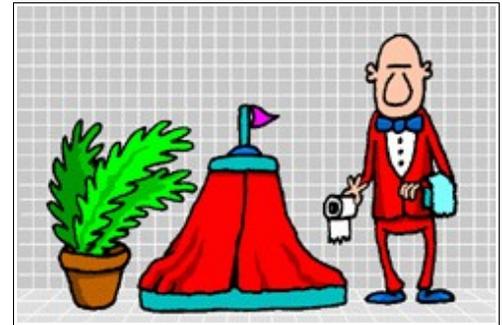
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Care For Your Cat After Urinary Obstruction

The first few days...

- The first 24 – 48 hours after removing the urinary catheter is the highest risk period for re-obstruction. You should monitor your cat during this time for signs of obstruction.
- Signs of obstruction: Watch your cat when he goes to the litter box. If he takes frequent trips to the litter box and postures to urinate but nothing is produced, call your veterinarian. Other signs to watch for are straining to urinate, vocalizing when in the litter box, depression, lethargy and vomiting.
- If you have multiple cats you may confine your cat in one room with a litter box for the first few days so you can tell if he is producing urine. If he is an outdoor cat you should keep him inside for the first week so you can watch him urinate.
- Try to clean the litter box multiple times a day so you can tell when your cat has produced urine.



Long term care...

- Dietary modification is recommended for cats who have had urinary obstructions. The change in diet is aimed at reducing the amount of mineral crystals in the urine. These crystals are made of magnesium, ammonium and phosphate and are called struvite crystals. Struvite crystals contribute to the formation of stones and urethral plugs.
- Increasing water intake decreases formation of crystals by diluting the urine. Feeding a canned wet food diet and encouraging water intake by having multiple water dishes throughout the house often helps.
- Your veterinarian may recommend a diet specially formulated for cats with urinary tract disease. These diets alter the pH of the urine to make it more acidic, which in turn reduces the amount of struvite crystals formed. The diets encourage increased water intake by having increased water content and higher salt content which, in turn increases thirst. Studies have shown that urinary diets do indeed decrease the incidence of lower urinary tract disease in cats.



Long term prognosis...

- About 40% of cats who have had a urinary tract obstruction will re-obstruct at some point during their lives. It is important that owners can recognize the early signs of obstruction. If you have any further questions about what to watch for, ask your veterinarian.

Medications...

Your veterinarian may prescribe some of the following medications to help your cat urinate:

- Diazepam: Relaxes the urethral sphincters and urethral muscles.
- Phenoxybenzamine: Acts to decrease muscle tone in the urethra.
- Buprenorphine: Pain control medication similar to morphine.
- Antibiotics: To control accompanying urinary tract infections.
- Prazosin: Acts to decrease muscle tone in the urethra.