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Perineal Urethrostomy in Male Cats

- FLUTD, Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease, is a common disease that is still poorly understood. While cure may not be at hand, good treatments are.
- It commonly results in crystal formation and urethral obstruction,. Outflow obstruction is acutely painful and an emergency situation. Uncorrected uremic toxicity is fatal. This is common in male cats and rare in females, as the male's urethra is much narrower than the female's.
- Clinical signs vary, but general illness and painful attempts to urinate, or failure to urinate, characterized by crying in the litter box, are typically seen.
- Perineal urethrostomy is an excellent procedure for male cats that cannot be catheterized when they obstruct. This is a true emergency!
- Perineal urethrostomy is also indicated to prevent the reobstruction of male cats that do not respond to medical treatment and continue to obstruct.
- Perineal urethrostomy removes the narrow distal portion of the urethra and allows the urine to flow through the wider portion, effectively eliminating the area where obstruction tends to occur.
- The complexity of cases varies. In acute renal failure and an obstruction that cannot be relieved with catheterization, surgery **MUST** be performed. Intensive care, balanced anesthesia, and careful aftercare are a must. These cases are emergency admissions and hospital stays are often several days. Call immediately for an emergency referral.
- If the procedure is done to prevent recurrent obstruction after an obstruction is relieved and the medical illness treated, surgery, anesthesia, and aftercare are much more routine. Hospitalization is typically 2-3 days.
- Surgery is done daily and on an emergency basis. If it is indicated for non-emergent disease, surgery will generally be scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday.
- We will coordinate postoperative aftercare with your hospital. Typical care includes:
 - A 4-5 day postoperative incision check.
 - A 10-12 day suture removal.
- Please send any preoperative laboratory tests and imaging.
- Uncomplicated cases are \$900 to \$1200, and emergency referrals are representatively more. [January 2011]. Ask for an estimate.