

Cystotomy

*Animal Surgical Care of Michigan
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Overview: A cystotomy is often recommended for removal of cystic calculi (bladder stones). It is also indicated for some types of bladder tumors as well as congenital defects.

Signs/symptoms: Often your pet will present with blood in the urine, urinating frequently, or even for having accidents in the house. Sometimes there are no signs at all and the stones are found as an incidental finding when taking a radiograph (x-ray) for another reason.

Diagnosis: Diagnosis is usually made by a urinalysis and radiograph (x-ray), though sometimes an ultrasound or a specialized radiographic study is necessary to confirm the diagnosis.

Treatment: Treatment either consists of medical or surgical management; your veterinarian can advise you on what options might be best for your pet.

Medical management involves attempts at dissolving the stones with diet change and sometimes medications.

Surgical management involves an abdominal incision to exteriorize the bladder. The bladder is incised and stone(s) removed. In the case of tumor or suspected defect, the tumor or defect is identified and removed if possible.

Aftercare/outcome: At home, your pet may continue to urinate frequently or have some blood in the urine for a couple of days after surgery. He/she should be kept quiet until the bladder is healed, in about two weeks.

In the case of cystic calculi, the stones should be analyzed so their composition can be determined. This result will help guide your veterinarian in making decisions regarding diet or medications that will help prevent the stones from recurring. If an infection was suspected, a culture may have been taken to determine what antibiotics would be the most effective in treating your pet's bladder infection.

*Please refer to the American College of Veterinary Surgeons website
www.acvs.org for additional information or call Dr. Boswell at 269-312-4227*