

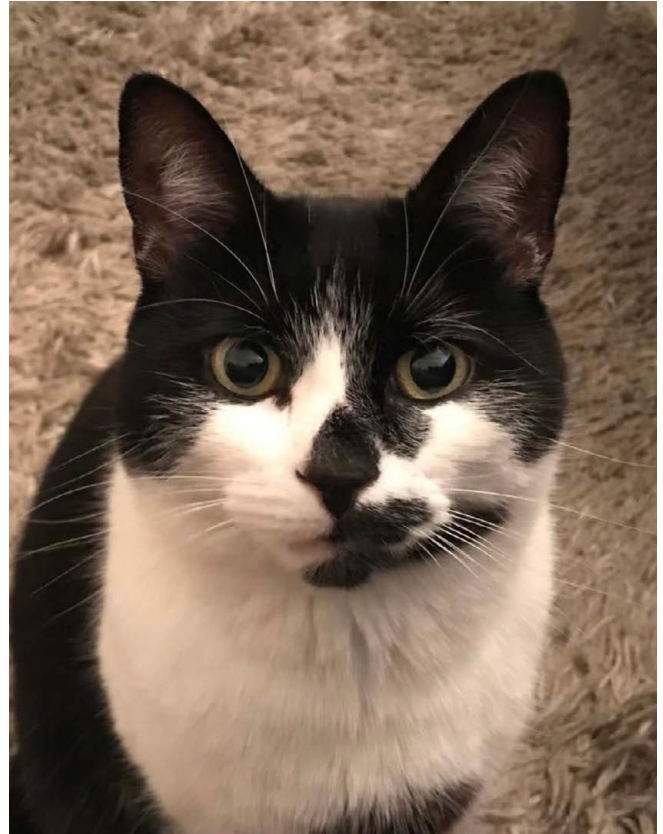
# Perineal Urethrostomy in Cats

## The Theory

Perineal urethrostomy (PU) is a treatment for distal urethral obstruction in cats. The most common indication for perineal urethrostomy is recurrent urethral obstruction despite appropriate management for feline lower urinary tract disease (FLUTD). The diameter of the urinary tract at the level of the penis is very small and is prone to blockage with urinary crystals, sediment and also due to spasm of the muscles of the lower urinary tract. In male cats there are several factors thought to be responsible, such as urinary crystals or stones, infection (cystitis), or behavioral and stress. PU is a surgical procedure performed in male cats to amputate the end of the penis which contains the narrowest portion of the urethra (the tube which transports urine from the bladder to the outside) creating a new, wider opening for the cat to urinate from. Sometimes a cystotomy is required too which involves surgically opening the bladder to remove calculi (bladder stones) which are still in the bladder.

## What to expect

Bleeding may occur during or following urination for 1-3 weeks after surgery, but this should resolve gradually without intervention. Urinary or faecal incontinence has been reported but is rare. Longer term complications include cystitis (bladder infection) in 10-50% of cases, which are treated with antibiotics, and late stricture formation.



## Following surgery:

Cats may remain hospitalised for up to 24 hours to monitor their urination. It is common for cats to pass blood tinged urine in the first few days following surgery. It is essential that cats are not allowed to lick the surgical site until it is fully healed, and so they will be fitted with a buster collar which they must wear for the first 2 weeks following surgery, or until your vet advises that it can be removed.



## Outcome

Following surgery most patients have a very good prognosis. This procedure reduces the risk of urinary obstruction in the future, however it doesn't stop cats from developing FLUTD and it can increase the risk of future urinary tract infections due to the wider diameter of the urethra.

## Possible Complications

Complications associated with surgery are reported in up to 25% of cases and include post-operative swelling, wound opening with urine leakage into the surrounding tissues and stricture (narrowing) formation at the surgical site. Leakage of urine must be managed early with additional sutures placed to close the leak and the placement of a urinary catheter to divert the urine. Inflammation may also require the temporary placement of a urinary catheter. Stricture formation can occur at any stage in the weeks to months following surgery and may require repeat surgery to relieve the scar.

