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URETHRAL STENT

6995 East Kemper Rd. • Cincinnati, OH 45249 • P: 513.530.0911 • F: 513.530.0811
6405 Clys Rd. • Centerville, OH 45459 • P: 937.428.0911 • F: 937.428.6667

carecentervets.com

What is a urethral stent?

A urethral stent is a self-expanding, metallic tube that holds the urethra open, allowing urine to flow out of the bladder.

When can a urethral stent help my dog?

A urethral stent is likely to be beneficial if your dog has a partial or complete urinary tract obstruction (inability to pass urine) of the urethra caused by:

- Tumor (prostate, urethra, bladder or surrounding structures)
- Benign proliferative urethritis (from chronic urinary tract infections or stones)
- Urethral strictures
- Reflex dysnergia, and medical therapy has failed

How is the stent placed?

A stent is placed using fluoroscopy (continuous X-ray). The procedure is fast and safe, and it immediately relieves the urethral obstruction. There is no need for surgery and your pet will have no surgical incisions.

How long will my pet be hospitalized?

Often, urethral stenting is an outpatient procedure. However, if the urinary obstruction is complete and resulting in systemic illness, then hospitalization may be recommended.

Complications:

After stent placement, 25% of patients will be incontinent; 75% will have no or only minor incontinence. Increased chance of urinary tract infection is also a potential complication.

Survival:

If the obstruction is benign, as seen with non-cancerous strictures, reflex dysnergia, or proliferative urethritis, then a pet with a stent would be expected to enjoy great quality of life and a normal life expectancy. If the obstruction is from a tumor, the median survival time is about nine months (some pets can live up to 1½ years or longer) with chemotherapy after stent placement. The cause of death in these patients is most often from tumor metastasis and not from urinary tract obstruction.

More than merely extending your pet's life, the placement of a urethral stent significantly improves your dog's quality of life by allowing them to urinate comfortably.