

Complications Of 114 Dogs Discharged With A Urinary Catheter.

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In most hospitals, patients with indwelling urinary catheters stay hospitalised until the bladder control returns. However, prolonged hospitalisation increases patient stress and costs. This study retrospectively evaluates complication rates in dogs discharged with an indwelling urinary catheter.

This retrospective study reviewed medical records spanning from 1 January 2023 to 31 January 2025 across three branches of the same veterinary referral group. Data extracted from Ezyvet, included signalment, reason for urinary catheter placement and duration of catheterisation, complications, modified Frankel score for patients who required the placement secondary to spinal injury, and Elizabethan collar use. The owners were contacted to answer a questionnaire to better understand their experience with urinary catheter management at home.

Intervertebral disc disease (IVDD) was the most common indication for urinary catheterisation, which accounted for 103 cases (90.35%). Neurological status at the time of catheter placement, assessed using the modified Frankel score, was grade 2-3 in 24.07% of dogs, grade 4 in 55.56%, and grade 5 in 20.37%. The median duration of home catheterisation was five days (range: 1–23). 94 dogs had urinary catheter- related complications reported, which include: dislodgement (50.9%), obstruction (22.8%), pigmenturia (9.6%), leakage (9.6%), urinary tract infection (UTI) (8.8%).

These findings offer valuable insights and help clinicians weigh the pro and cons of hospitalisation versus discharge for dogs with an in-dwelling urinary catheter.

References:

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