

## Urinary Calculi in Dogs

### General Information

Urinary calculi are stone-like objects that form in the urinary system. The most common location for formation of these “stones” is the urinary bladder. The kidneys are the next most common location for stone formation. The most common bladder stones form only in the presence of a urinary tract infection. Some dogs do not show any signs during the early stage of stone formation, while others show frequent urination of small quantities of urine, straining to urinate and blood in the urine. As the condition progresses, signs usually intensify. Some pets may become unable to urinate.

In male dogs, small bladder stones may exit the bladder and become lodged in the urethra, blocking the passage of urine. Stones most frequently lodge in the portion of the urethra located at the base of the penis. Urinary blockage is a medical emergency.

Treatment of urinary calculi consists of removal of the stones, either by dissolving them through feeding of a special diet or with surgery, and treatment of any infection. After treatment, normal urinary tract health must be maintained to prevent recurrence.

### Important Points in Treatment

1. Laboratory tests of the urine and blood are necessary to diagnose the condition and monitor the effectiveness of treatment. Radiographs (x-rays) are used to confirm the presence of stones before treatment and their absence after treatment.
2. *Medication:* Give all medication as directed. Call the doctor if you cannot give the medication.
3. Only certain types of stones can be dissolved with a special diet. The doctor will advise you if this type of treatment is desirable for your dog.
4. *Diet:* If your dog’s stones are being dissolved with dietary therapy, you must give no other foods, such as snacks, dog treats, rawhide chews, etc. *Do not give any other food materials during dietary therapy.*
5. *Instructions for surgical patients:* \_\_\_\_\_  
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### Notify the Doctor if Any of the Following Occur

- Your pet strains to urinate or cannot urinate.
- Your pet has blood in the urine.
- Your pet seems uncomfortable after urinating.