

Estimates listed below are valid until 3/31/25

## Ectopic Ureter Evaluation/Procedures Guidelines, Information and Estimates

Referral Fee/Exam-\$178.50

Internal Medicine **Workup** Estimate: \$1200.00-1500.00\* (Performed prior to both cystoscopy with laser repair or surgical repair and includes the Referral Fee/Exam).

### Before the appointment:

Urinary tract infections are common (64% of cases) in ectopic ureter patients. UTIs cause inflammation in the bladder, which can increase the risks associated with cystoscopy. Given this, we strongly recommend a negative urine culture be documented within 7-10 days of the appointment. It is very helpful if a urine culture is submitted within 1 week of the scheduled appointment.

If positive, then appropriate antimicrobials should be started based on culture and sensitivity results.

### Cystoscopy with Laser Ablation (95% dogs have intramural ectopic ureters and can be corrected with laser cystoscopy)

The Internal Medicine service evaluates dogs with suspected ectopic ureters and can evaluate patients at any age. However, it is recommended that the evaluation be performed as early as possible. All dogs must be up-to-date on vaccinations. During the initial medicine evaluation, the client will meet with the Internal Medicine service team. The team will review previous medical history and imaging, complete a physical examination, and likely perform abdominal imaging. The results of this evaluation will be discussed with the client and the decision for further workup or procedures will be determined.

To confirm the presence of ectopic ureters, cystoscopy +/- abdominal CT under anesthesia is usually scheduled for the day following the initial consultation. Occasionally, other emergencies might delay diagnostics or general anesthesia. In such cases, additional procedures will be scheduled for the next available time. Depending on the patient's anesthetic status and the nature of the ectopic ureters (e.g. bilateral ectopia, challenging anatomy, incomplete response to therapy, complicated cases, etc.), **more than one procedure may be required**. The patient is recovered from anesthesia in the recovery room and can usually go home the same day or the following day, depending how late in the day the patient recovers. The average hospital stay for a typical patient with a laser repair for the ectopic ureters is one-two days. Some cases (e.g. extramural ectopic ureters, ureteroceles) are not amenable to cystoscopic laser ablation and require surgical correction, which is scheduled at a later date (see below).

Male dogs incur more cost and, depending on size, anatomy, and personnel experience, may or may not be candidates for a minimally-invasive approach. On occasion, the patient may need to be referred to outside clinics for other treatment options. **Cystoscopy Laser repair procedure estimate is \$3,500.00-4,200.00\***.

### Surgical Repair

The initial appointment will be made on the Internal Medicine service and the Internal Medicine workup estimates will apply. If the patient is determined to not be a candidate for cystoscopy with laser repair, the patient will need to return at a later date for an evaluation through the soft tissue surgery service. **The surgical repair estimate is \$3,750.00-5,231.00\***

\*Emergency cases, medications and follow-up exams are not included in these estimates.

### Prognosis:

Ectopic ureter correction by surgery or cystoscopic-guided laser ablation results in a good prognosis, with most dogs experiencing improvement, but not normalization, of continence within a month of surgery. It is important to note that up to 90% of dogs with ectopic ureters have concurrent urethral sphincter mechanism incontinence. Consequently, many dogs experience some degree of incontinence despite correction of ectopic ureters. In these cases, additional medical therapies (e.g. phenylpropanolamine, estriol) or, less commonly, procedures (e.g. collagen injections, urethral occluder) are needed. Several studies have been performed to determine the incidence of total incontinence resolution; depending on the study, 33-72% of dogs were found to be completely free of their incontinence. However, dogs that require additional medical management are much more likely to respond to that management if their ureters have been corrected than they would have with medications alone prior to surgical or laser intervention. Additional study information can be found in this Compendium article: <https://www.vetfolio.com/learn/article/ectopic-ureters-and-ureteroceles-in-dogs-presentation-cause-and-diagnosis>

If you have additional questions about ectopic ureter ablation or surgical repair, the referring veterinarian may contact the Internal Medicine or Soft Tissue Surgery Service.

**Hospital Payment Policy:** <https://tiny.utk.edu/utcvmclientpayment>

**UTCVM Visit Information for Clients:** <https://tiny.utk.edu/UTCVMVisitInfo>

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR REFERRAL!**

2407 River Drive – Room C247  
Knoxville, TN 37996-4544

**Clients and/or Veterinarians**  
865-974-8387  
[vetclientservices@utk.edu](mailto:vetclientservices@utk.edu)

**Referring Veterinarians ONLY**  
**Referral Coordinators:**  
865-974-3939  
[utvetref@utk.edu](mailto:utvetref@utk.edu)

[vetmed.tennessee.edu/vmc](http://vetmed.tennessee.edu/vmc)

UPDATED 5/1/24