

Estimates listed below are valid until 3/31/24

Urolithiasis Evaluation/Procedures Information and Estimate

The Internal Medicine service evaluates urolith patients on Tuesdays and Thursdays. A corresponding Soft Tissue Surgery appointment slot will be held in the event that a surgeon needs to assist with the procedure. All patients 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/imaging, complete a physical examination and likely perform further abdominal imaging. The results of this evaluation will be discussed with the client and the decision for further workup or procedures will be determined. If further procedures are required, those will be performed the following day. Occasionally, abdominal imaging cannot be performed until the day following the initial consultation. In such cases, additional procedures will be scheduled for the next available time. Furthermore, depending on which one of the following treatment techniques that are chosen, the client may need to return at a later date for the urolith removal procedure.

Urolith Removal Procedures

Cystoscopic Assisted Cystotomy (CAC): This procedure is for both male and female patients. The internist performs the CAC with the assistance of a surgeon. A small incision is made in the abdomen (1/2 to 1 inch) followed by a small incision into the bladder. Using this incision, uroliths are removed with the aid of an endoscope. Abdominal radiographs are taken after the procedure to ensure all stones have been removed. Many patients are discharged on the same day, after recovery from anesthesia, but some patients will need to spend the night, depending on anesthetic recovery and the time of the day the procedure is finished. **The cost of a CAC procedure is typically \$3200.00 - \$4000.00*.**

Transurethral Cystoscopy with Laser Lithotripsy: Proper case selection for this procedure is important. The ideal candidate is a female dog, ~ 8-25 kg, with a low stone burden. Small stones are removed with the endoscope and retrieval basket. If uroliths are too large to remove through the urethra, a laser is used to fragment the stones. Each stone removed requires the reintroduction of the cystoscope, and mucosal trauma can result from repetitive stone removal. Additionally, dogs with very large stones are poor candidates for transurethral removal because of the risk for urethral trauma with more stone fragments and excessive anesthesia time required. Abdominal radiographs are taken after the procedure to ensure complete stone removal. Many patients are discharged on the same day, after recovery from anesthesia, but some patients will need to spend the night, depending on anesthetic recovery and the time of the day the procedure is finished. **The cost of this procedure is typically \$3,200.00-\$4,200.00***

Cystotomy: If we are unable to remove uroliths by the above procedures, a surgical cystotomy may be performed. These patients typically will stay 1-2 days after surgery. **The cost of a cystotomy is typically \$3,100.00 - \$4,292.00*** (not including workup). *On occasion, when stones cannot be removed from the urethra of male dogs or cats, additional procedures may be required to establish a patent site for urination (e.g., urethrostomy). These procedures typically result an **additional \$540.00-\$1,080.00 added to the surgical fee.**

The cost of the referral fee/exam is \$170.00

***A more individualized estimate will be provided to the client at the time of the initial visit. The estimates above do not include emergency treatment, emergency procedures, emergency hospitalization or emergency surgery charges.**

Please send completed referral form, medical history notes, laboratory results and imaging from the last year. We will contact your client to schedule an appointment: <https://tiny.utk.edu/UTCVM-Referrals>

FAQs

Nephrolithiasis: We do not have Extracorporeal Shock Wave Lithotripsy (ESWL) at UTCVM. Feel free to call or schedule a consultation to determine management options for dogs or cats with nephroliths.

Ureterolithiasis: Subcutaneous Ureteral Bypass (SUB) or ureteral stents may be options for cats with ureteral obstruction; these patients must first be evaluated by our Critical Care or Internal Medicine specialists before surgery is considered. Veterinarians, please contact us at 865-974-8387 for further information.

American Society of Veterinary Nephrology and Urology: For more information on facilities that offer advanced renal or urinary treatments for pets: <https://www.asvnu.org>

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

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR REFERRAL!

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Referring Veterinarians ONLY
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