



VETEMIS

R E F E R R A L S

Endoscopic Bladder Stone Removal

Introduction:

At Vetemis Referrals, we offer advanced interventional endoscopy procedures, including bladder stone removal using a minimally invasive approach. This technique eliminates the need for open surgery, reducing recovery time, discomfort, and risks for your pet.

What is Intervention Endoscopy - Bladder Stone Removal

Bladder stone removal using interventional endoscopy, also known as laser lithotripsy or cystoscopic stone retrieval, is a minimally invasive procedure designed to break down and remove bladder stones without requiring open surgery. A small endoscope is inserted into the bladder through the urethra, allowing our experienced vet to visualise and fragment stones using a laser or specialized retrieval tools. The fragmented stones are then flushed out or removed with forceps.

Indications for Bladder Stone Removal?

Bladder stones, also known as uroliths, can cause discomfort and health complications. This procedure is recommended for pets experiencing:

- Frequent or painful urination
- Blood in the urine (haematuria)
- Straining to urinate
- Recurring urinary tract infections (UTIs)
- Urinary blockage (especially in male pets)
- Early removal prevents further irritation, infection, and potential blockages that can be life-threatening.

What are the alternatives?

- Surgical Cystotomy: This is Open surgery to remove large or multiple stones when endoscopy isn't feasible.
- Medical Dissolution: Prescription diets can dissolve certain stones (e.g., struvite), but not all types respond.
- Hydropropulsion: Small stones may be flushed out using a fluid-filled catheter, mainly in female pets.
- Shockwave Lithotripsy: This breaks stones into smaller pieces using shockwaves, though it is rarely used in veterinary medicine.

The best option depends on the stone's type and size, and your pet's health. Our team will advise on the most suitable approach.

What are the risks?

Anaesthetic Risks

- Reactions to sedation or anaesthesia, particularly in pets with pre-existing conditions such as heart, liver, or kidney disease.

Procedure-related Risks

- Incomplete Stone Removal: Some cases may require additional treatment if all fragments are not eliminated.
- Urinary Tract Irritation: Temporary inflammation or mild discomfort may occur post-procedure.
- Infection: Antibiotics may be prescribed to reduce the risk of urinary tract infections.
- Stone Recurrence: Pets prone to stone formation may develop new stones over time, requiring ongoing dietary and medical management.

Our experienced team takes every precaution to minimise these risks and ensure a successful outcome.

Endoscopic Bladder Stone Removal Procedure

Pre-Operative Consultation

- Pre-clinical examination of your pet.
- Procedure discussion with a senior surgeon.
- For long-distance clients, a clinical examination may be carried out by your local vet and a phone consultation will be arranged with one of our senior surgeons prior to surgery.
- Medical Review: Please inform us of all your pet's medications, including over-the-counter treatments. Certain drugs, like steroids or NSAIDs, may need to be paused, and special instructions apply for pets with conditions like diabetes, heart disease, those affecting blood clotting or urinary health.

1

Admission & Preparation

- Withhold food for 6–12 hours before the procedure.
- Water: Restrict water for 2–4 hours prior to arrival.
- Please make sure your pet has had the opportunity to go to the toilet before arriving at the clinic.
- A team member will review the procedure with you, answer any questions, and obtain your consent.
- Your pet will undergo a clinical examination, and blood tests or imaging may be performed.
- An intravenous catheter will be placed to administer fluids, anaesthesia, and medications if needed.

2

Bladder Stone Removal

- Your pet will be placed under general anaesthesia to ensure comfort and safety. A cystoscope (a small, camera-equipped endoscope) is inserted into the bladder through the urethra, allowing direct visualisation of the stones. If the stones are small, they may be removed intact using grasping forceps. Larger stones are fragmented using laser lithotripsy, breaking them into smaller pieces that can be flushed out or retrieved.

The procedure typically takes 30–90 minutes, depending on the complexity of the case.

3

Recovery & Monitoring

- Your pet will be closely monitored until they recover from anaesthesia.
- A small, bland meal will be offered before discharge.
- Most pets experience minimal discomfort due to the small incisions, and additional pain relief will be provided if needed.

4

Home Recovery

- Rest & Activity Restriction: Keep your pet calm and limit activity for 24–48 hours.
- Urination: Some mild blood-tinged urine is normal for 24–48 hours post-procedure.
- Dietary Changes: A special urinary diet may be recommended to help prevent future stone formation.
- Monitoring: Watch for signs of discomfort, vomiting, or changes in behaviour.

5

Next Steps & Follow Up

- A follow-up appointment may be scheduled to confirm complete stone removal and assess healing. If stones were analysed, we will discuss results and prevention strategies. Long-term management, including dietary modifications and increased water intake, may be recommended to reduce the risk of recurrence.

Further information

When to contact us:

Contact us immediately if you notice:

- Straining to urinate or inability to pass urine.
- Excessive bleeding in the urine beyond 48 hours.
- Signs of pain, lethargy, or discomfort.
- Any unusual symptoms or concerns about recovery.

Contact Us

To Refer a routine case, please use the referral form on our website.

Call:
01543 373 033

Email:
Referrals@vetemis.co.uk

Our Services

To see our full list of services, visit:
www.veterinaryendoscopy.co.uk

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