



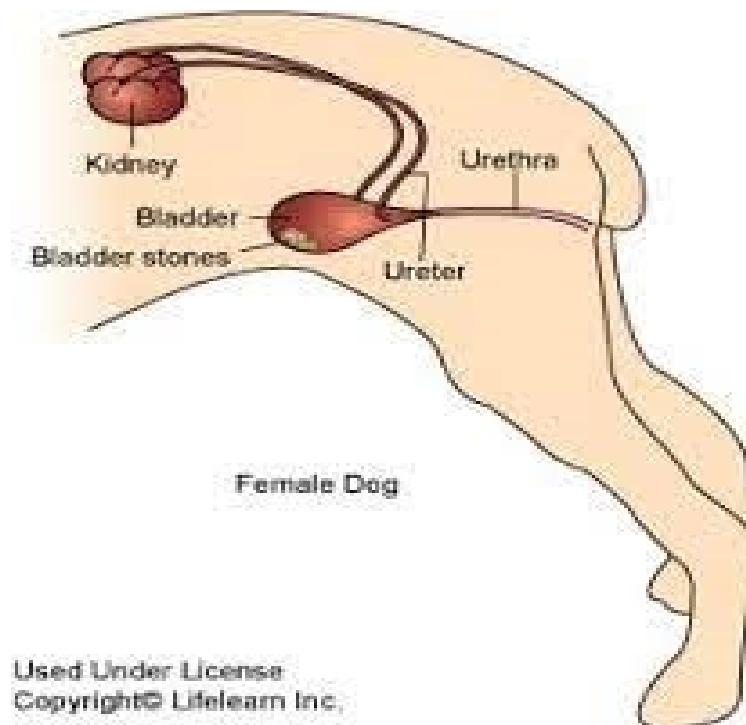
Bladder Issues, Palpation, and Urinary Catheterization

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What Does the Bladder Do?

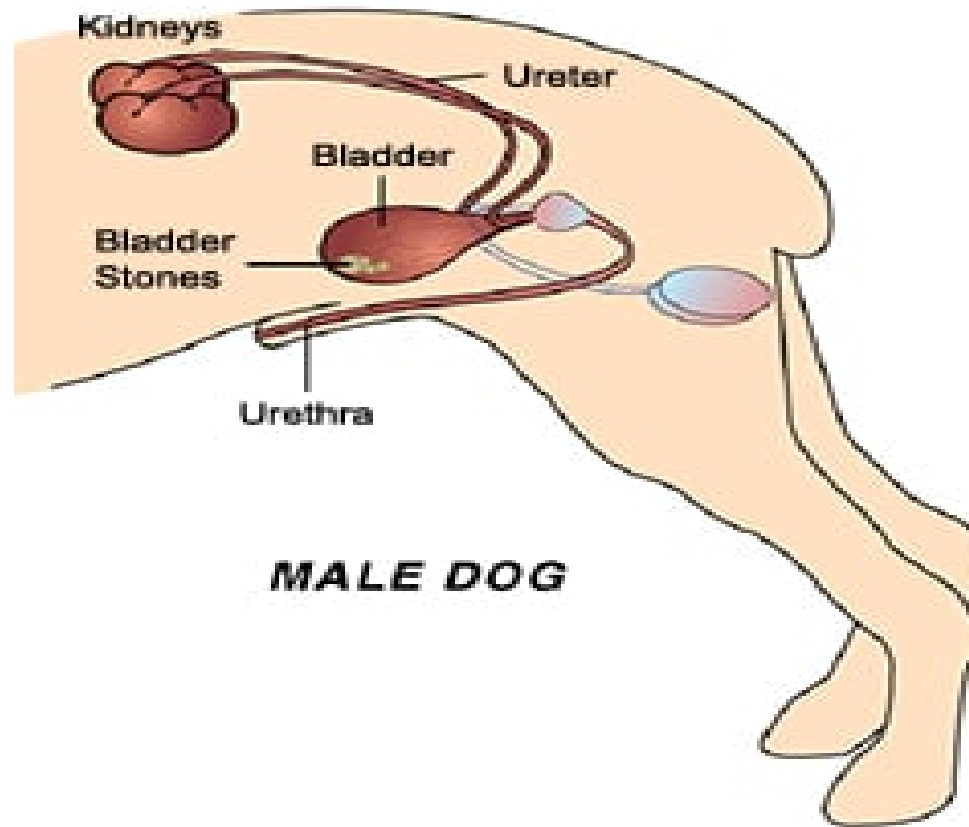
- Triangle-shaped, hollow organ
- Located in caudal abdomen
- Functions to collect and store urine

Female Dog Bladder



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Male Dog Bladder



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Common Bladder Issues in Dogs



Urinary Tract Infections

Bladder Stones

Tumors

Prostate Issues

Incontinence

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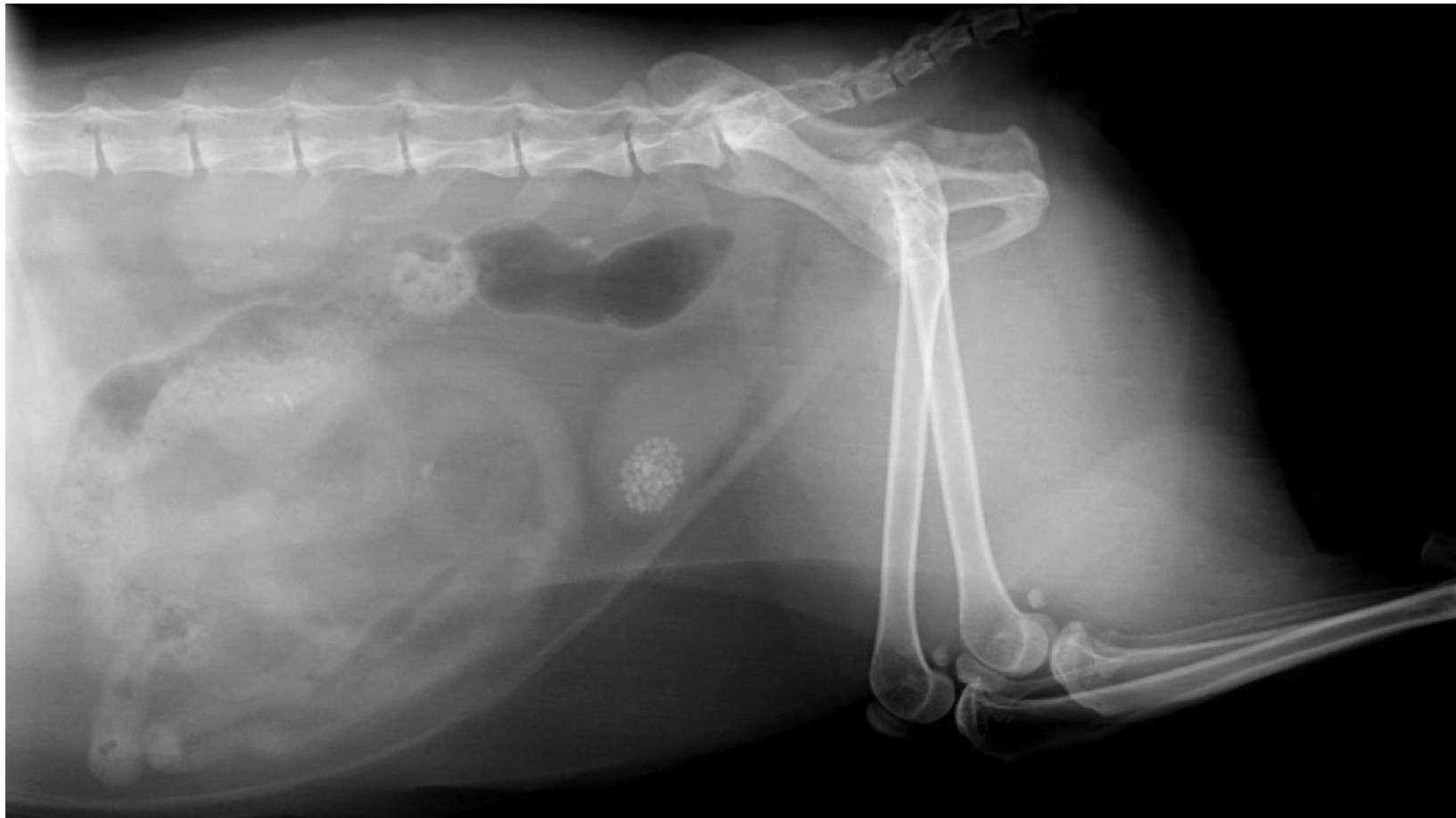
Urinary Tract Infections

- More common in female dogs than males
- Occurs when the bladder's natural defenses are faulty
- Results from bacteria entering and colonizing the bladder

Bladder Stones

- Dogs mostly form stones in the bladder, not the kidney like humans
- Stones are rock-like formations made of minerals
- There are many different stone types and identifying the stone is crucial for treatment

Bladder Stone X-Ray



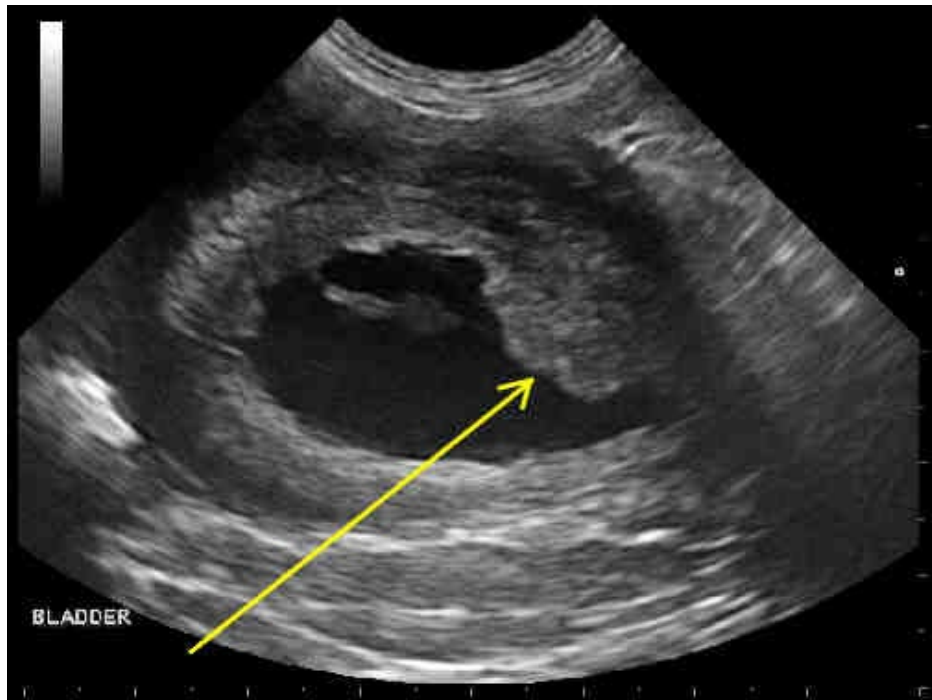
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Bladder Stone X-Ray



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Bladder Tumors

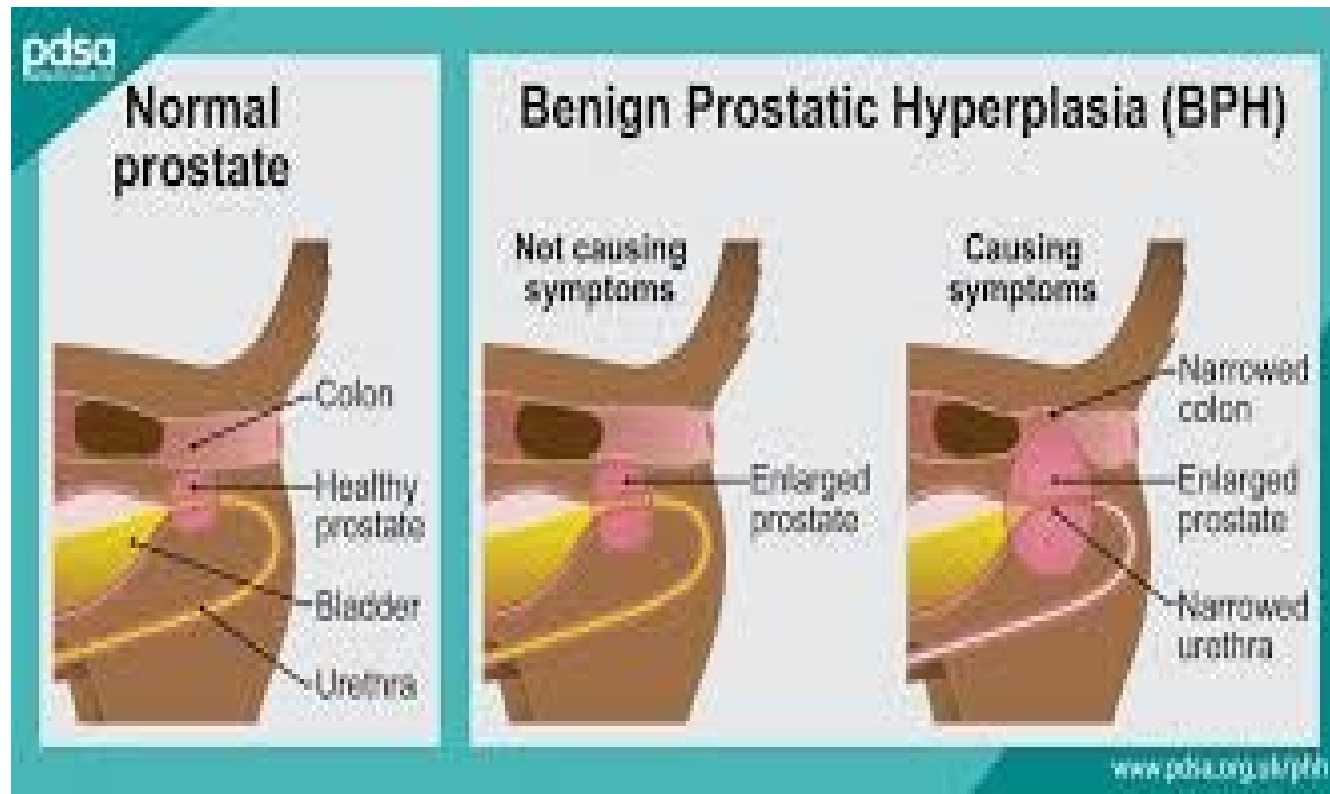


- Most are cancerous, but may be benign
- Often located where surgical resection is not possible
- Medications, such as chemotherapy, may help

Prostate Issues

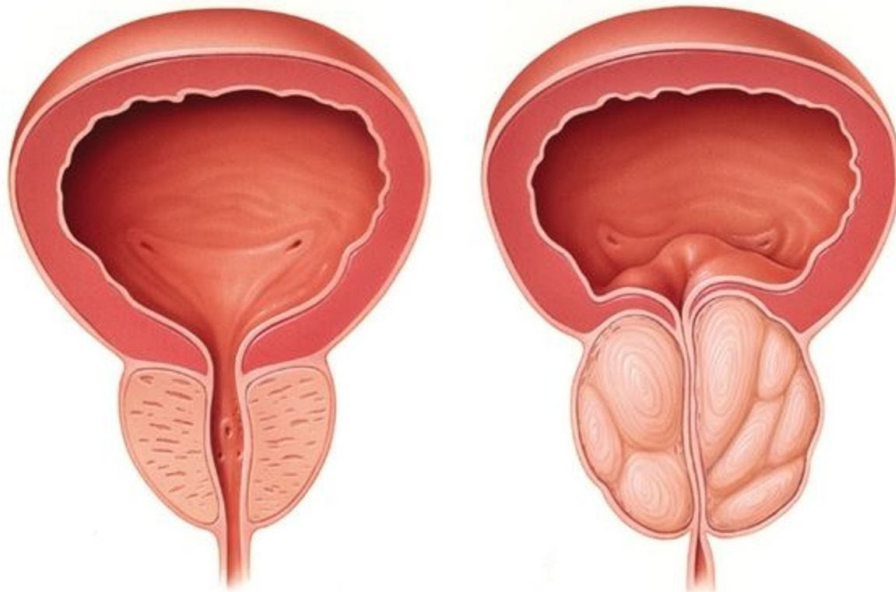
- Male dogs may develop benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) or cancer
- BPH is common in non-neutered (intact) males
- Castration is the treatment of choice
- Prostate cancer carries a poor prognosis

Enlarged Prostate



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Prostate Issues



Normal Prostate

Enlarged Prostate

- The prostate surrounds the urethra
- Dogs with an enlarged prostate, regardless of cause, will have difficulty urinating

Incontinence

- Can be caused by several issues, but most commonly is estrogen-responsive due to spaying
- Estrogen aids in keeping the urethral opening closed tightly
- Spaying removes a dog's natural estrogen

Incontinence



- Female dogs with incontinence due to lack of estrogen will leak urine when asleep
- Wakeful incontinence is likely due to another issue

Bladder Palpation

- Gently palpate the caudal abdominal region
- Bladder will feel like a water balloon inside the abdomen
- Do not push too hard
- Any sign of discomfort from the dog should discontinue the palpation

Bladder Palpation

- Dog should be restrained standing up with the technician behind them to palpate
- Or
- Dog may be restrained lying on their side with the technician near their legs

Bladder Palpation



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Bladder Palpation



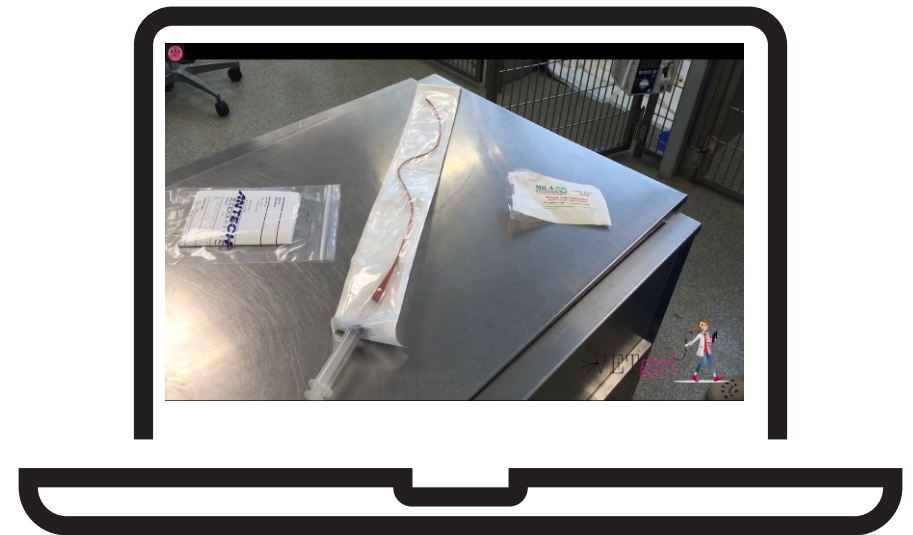
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Male Dog Catheterization

- Dog should be restrained lying on their side
- This is a sterile procedure so care must be taken
- The technician should don sterile gloves and use a sterile urinary catheter as well as sterile lubricant

Male Dog Catheterization

- <https://vetgirlontherun.com/catheterize-male-dog-urine-sample-vetgirl-veterinary-continuing-education-blog/>



For more information, please contact Realityworks, Inc.
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