

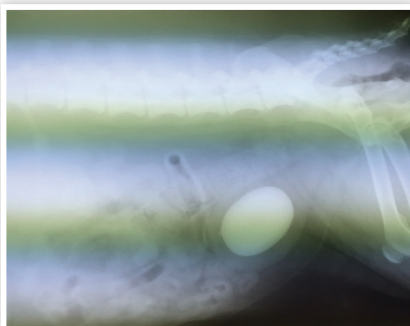


## McMASTER & HEAP VETERINARY PRACTICE

# A LARGE BLADDER STONE..

"Tilly" a 5 year old, Lhaso Apso mix presented to me one weekend for vomiting, restlessness, not eating, drinking lots and just appearing flat. Nothing specific could be identified, apart from her being over weight and having a fever. She lives with a wonderful elderly lady who showers Tilly with love and food – mostly she lives on our diet, with occasional dog roll. She did have a tense abdomen and we noticed on getting a urine sample she passed many small streams. My thoughts initially were either a gastric complaint or urinary tract infection. Her urine was dilute ( she was drinking copiously) and there was a lot of blood present. I discharged Tilly on antibiotics and tramal pain relief and had her return in 3 days for another check up and urine test.

The next time I saw Tilly she appeared more painful to the touch, grunting on abdominal palpation. She was eating better and hadn't been sick but she didn't look well to me. Her urine was still bloody and dilute so I recommended we radiograph her abdomen. I also ran blood tests to check all her organs (especially liver and kidney) were functioning normally.



Once the radiograph was done it was very easy to diagnose Tilly's problem of pain, blood in the urine, listlessness and drinking copiously.

As you can see, the bladder stone present was humungous. It's hard to imagine any animal coping pretty well with the daily rituals of life having this huge thing rocking around inside you. On the radiograph you can also see how thickened the bladder wall has become supporting this huge mass. Very easy to now understand why we have blood in the urine and why she passes small urinations often. Basically her bladder can't hold much urine as its "full up".

Small bladder stones ( uroliths) can be medically managed and dissolved effectively with prescription diets once the composition of the stone is known. This stone requires urgent surgical removal which Tilly's owners were in full agreeance with. I came in to operate on my day off as I didn't want Tilly to suffer with this stone any longer. She is so stoic and really her owners haven't noticed changes with her until recently.



The surgery went superbly. She was an absolute star under the anaesthetic and on recovery. Her pain was managed through medications placed into her intravenous fluids and antibiotics were a must. She was discharged later that night.

My suspicion is that the stone is comprised of "Calcium Oxalate", due to its size, hardness, opacity and the fact these stones are over represented in Lhaso Apso's. We have sent the stone off to the Hills Science Diet analysis centre in Missouri, USA to determine what it is. This information is essential in managing Tilly's diet accordingly in the long term so this doesn't happen again.



I love these surgeries in particular as I know I can make a huge difference to Tilly's quality and quantity of life. They can't thank you verbally but they definitely do in many other

ways. Animals know we help them. I feel privileged so often to be there to help and heal them.

**Dr Michele McMaster**



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