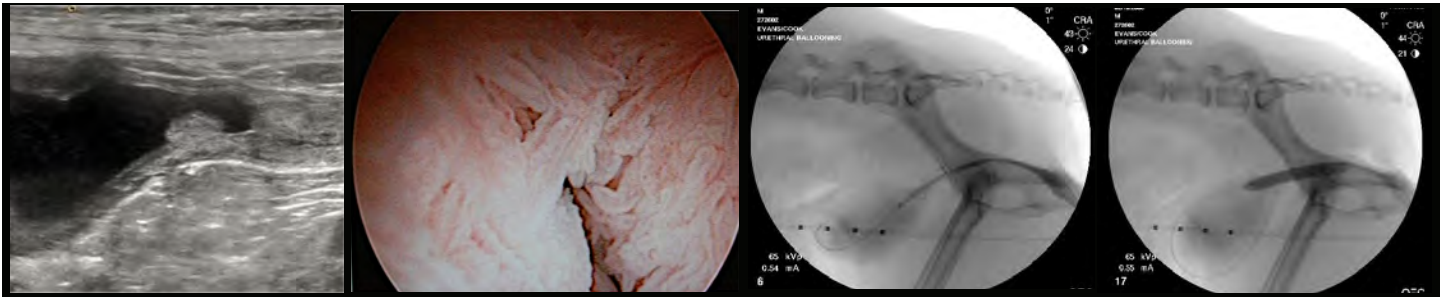


Urethral ballooning



**VETERINARY MEDICINE
& BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY



Procedure: This minimally invasive procedure is performed under anesthesia. A guidewire is advanced from the urethra and into the bladder. Measurements are taken to determine the diameter of the normal urethra using radiographic contrast material. A high pressure balloon is placed over the guidewire and inflated to the target diameter.

Indications: Most frequently used for relief of urethral obstruction secondary to urothelial carcinoma (UC; also called transitional cell carcinoma [TCC]). Patients with traumatic strictures are also candidates for this procedure.

Patient eligibility (species, size, gender): Dogs whose distal urethra can accommodate the balloon device (typically 6Fr [2 mm] in size).

Cost: \$3,000 - \$3,500 for ballooning. Pre-procedure care for patients unable to urinate can add significantly to this cost.

Length of stay: Patients are usually discharged the same day.

Complications: Complications are rare, but could include rupture of the urethra, excessive bleeding, or infection.

Anticipated outcome: Most dogs respond well to ballooning, with immediate improvements in urine flow and overall comfort. The duration of effect is variable, and ranges from a few weeks to several months. Ballooning can be repeated as necessary.

Texas A&M Interventional Radiology & Endoscopy Service

Genna Atiee DVM, Diplomate ACVIM
Assistant Professor

Audrey Cook BVM&S, MRCVS
Diplomate ACVIM, ECVIM, ABVP (Feline)
Professor and Chief of Service

Michelle Hervey BS
Licensed Veterinary Technician

Questions?

Please contact

guidewire@cvm.tamu.edu

[Small Animal Hospital](#)

979-845-2351