

At-Home Urinary Catheter Instructions

Your pet is going home with an in-dwelling urinary catheter. A urinary catheter is a flexible plastic tube inserted through the urethra into the bladder to drain urine. A urinary catheter adapter is attached to the end of the catheter. This adapter allows you to connect a collection line to a collection bag, allowing urine to flow freely, therefore, emptying the bladder with no discomfort. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the urinary catheter, please do not hesitate to contact the VNC. Our phone number, email address, and website URL can be found at the top right-hand corner of this page. These directions can also be found on our website at the following URL: <http://www.vetneuro.com/index.php/resources/forms/client>

1. **Supplies You Will Be Taking Home** (Based on 10-14 day supply)

- Urinary Collection Set
- Urinary collection line attached to a collection bag
- 4-ounce container of liquid disinfectant (Nolvasan Solution)
- Blue caps (2)
- Injection Plugs (1)
- E-Collar (with gauze tie)

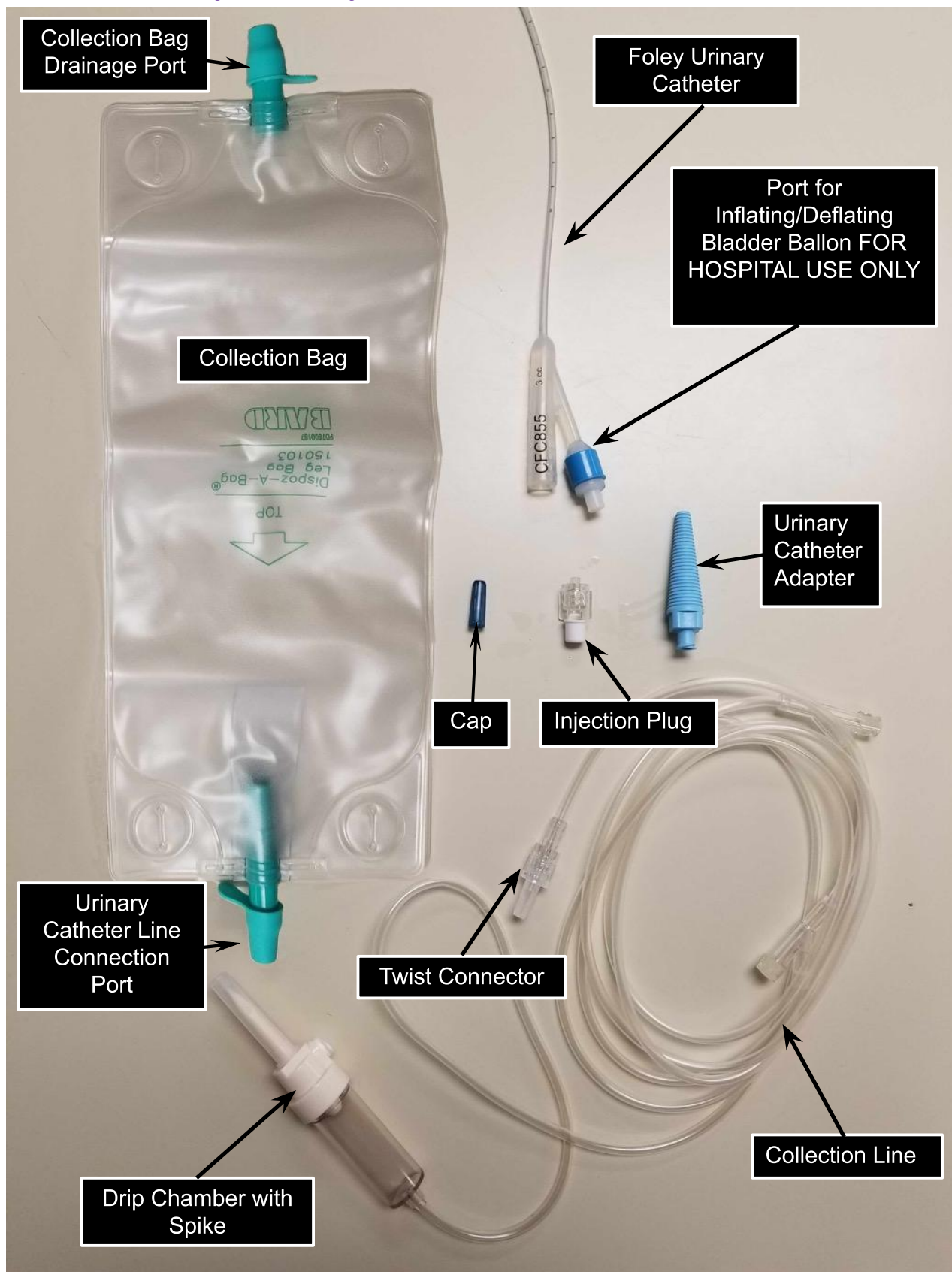
IMPORTANT NOTE: *Always wash your hands before and after handling your pet's urinary catheter to avoid the spread of germs.*

2. **General Considerations**

Do not let your pet drag the urinary collection set because if the line is pulled on too hard, it could pull on the balloon inflated inside the bladder (to keep the urinary catheter in place) causing discomfort. This could also result in the urinary catheter falling out completely. Always keep the urinary collection line and urinary collection bag lower than your pet to keep the flow of urine away from your pet. A bag that is located higher than the patient could flow in the opposite direction.

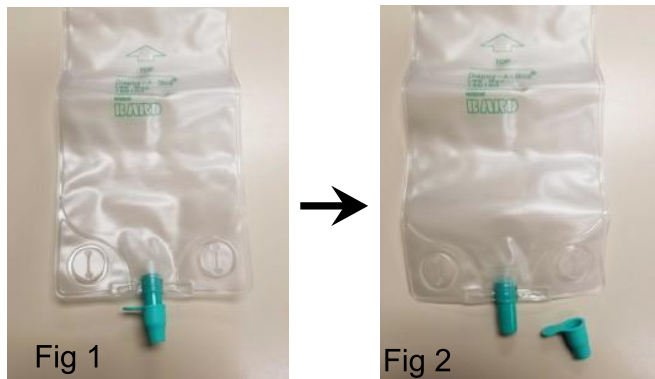
When not in use, keep the blue cap and injection plug in the disinfectant liquid. These do not need to be rinsed off when taken from the liquid and put to use. Drain the collection set and bag as needed.

3. Parts of a Urinary Catheter System



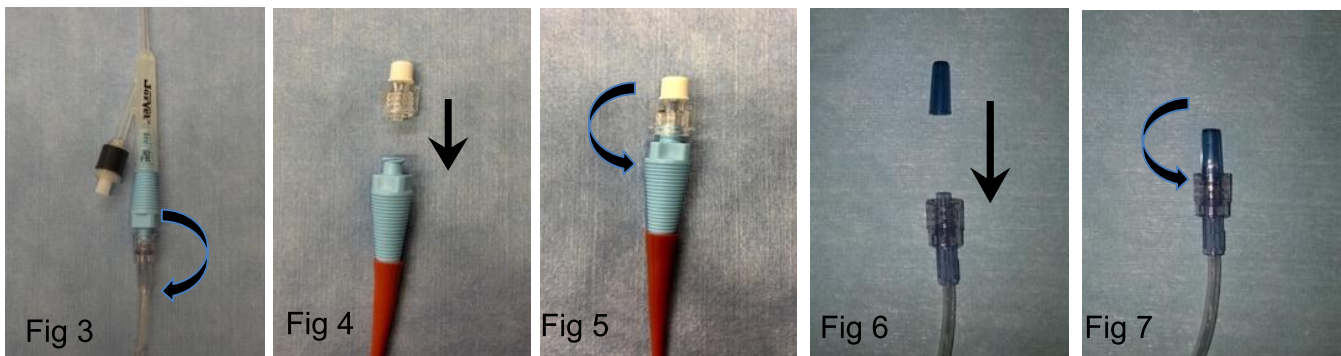
4. Emptying the Urinary Collection Bag (When Half Full)

- The frequency with which you should empty the collection bag depends on the volume of urine being collected. The collection bag should be emptied a minimum of twice per day or more frequently as necessary.
- Obtain a receptacle (bed pan, old tupperware container, etc.) to drain the urine into or empty directly into the toilet.
- Hold the urine collection bag upright (top arrow on bag pointing upward).
- Hold the bag (specifically the drainage port) over the receptacle or toilet you are using to drain the urine into.
- Remove the cap on the urinary collection bag drainage port. (Fig. 1-2)
- Allow the bag to fully drain into the receptacle or toilet.
- Once drained, replace the cap on the urinary collection bag drainage port.
- If using a receptacle, empty the receptacle into the toilet.



5. Disconnecting Urinary Line and Bag (Moving the Dog, Taking Outside)

- Hold the urinary catheter adapter
- Unscrew the twist connector and remove from the urinary catheter adapter.
- Once removed, keep the collection line above the urinary collection bag to avoid leakage.
- Place the injection plug on the urinary catheter adapter to avoid contamination and leakage (Fig 4 and 5).
- Place the cap in the twist connector to avoid contamination and prevent leakage. (Fig 6 and 7)
- Place a t-shirt on your pet or tape the catheter to your pet's side to prevent the catheter from dragging on the ground. Your pet will now be able to move freely from the urinary collection line and bag.
- To reconnect the catheter and line, please follow these steps in reverse order.



6. Troubleshooting

- Urine not flowing
 - Verify that there are no kinks in the urine line. If there are, remove the kinks.
 - Verify that there are no blood clots in the line. Blood clots are not abnormal. Due to irritation caused by the catheter to the bladder, blood clots can form. They will usually resolve by themselves. To reduce irritation, limit the patient's movement by placing him/her into a confined area, such as a crate. If no urine is flowing at all for 4 hours and/or the patient shows any sign of pain or discomfort, please contact VNC or your referring veterinarian.
 - Bag may be too full. If the urine bag is too full, it will not allow urine to flow freely. Check to see if the bag feels "tight" and has a rounded appearance. If it does, follow instructions for **Changing the Urinary Collection Bag**.
- Patient chewing on urinary catheter
 - It is normal behavior for a dog to try to remove a "foreign object" from its body. If your pet is chewing at its urinary catheter, then place the E-Collar on him/her. If he/she persists, with the e-collar on, then disconnect your pet from the line. You will need to reconnect the urinary collection line and bag every 4-6 hours for 10 minutes in order to allow the bladder to drain. Make sure your pet is under direct supervision during this time. After 10 minutes, disconnect the line and bag again.
- Patient chewed through catheter or pulled completely out
 - Please try to find as many pieces as possible and bring the collected pieces and your pet to the VNC or your referring veterinarian for assistance.

7. Questions/Concerns

If at any time you have any questions or concerns regarding your pet's urinary catheter or condition, please feel free to contact us.

- **For the most immediate assistance:** If you have a question or concern that is urgent and in need of an immediate response, please call us using the telephone number listed on the top right-hand corner on the front page of these directions, Monday through Saturday, from 9am – 5pm.
- **If your concern is not urgent or an emergency, and it is after our normal working hours:** please feel free to leave a voicemail or email us, using the email address that is also located on the right-hand corner of the front page of these directions. Voicemails are answered the following morning and we answer emails by the end of the next business day.
- **If your concern is urgent and/or an emergency and it is after our normal working hours:** please contact your primary veterinarian or a local emergency hospital.