Charlie gets his stones in a row!

Charlie, a 15-yr-old, male-neutered, domestic-short-hair cat was evaluated for straining to urinate. Radiography was performed prior to un-obstructing to verify, localize and diagnose disease. The distal urethra was radiopaque (A).

Rule-outs included:

- an ossified urethra
- an ossified urinary catheter (no history of previous catheterization)
- multiple radiopaque urethroliths.

Under anesthesia the bladder was decompressed using a needle and syringe. Upon urethral exteriorization a single stone was retrieved from the urethral tip (B). Retrograde urethral hydropropulsion was performed and repeat radiographs revealed multiple small radiopaque urinary stones. Radiographic appearance was consistent with a composition of calcium oxalate.

Uroliths were removed by cystotomy. Analysis confirmed they were 100% calcium oxalate monohydrate.

Prevention: To minimize calcium oxalate urolith recurrence, consider canned foods that do not over-acidify urine. Additional information about Feline Calcium Oxalate Urolith Prevention.

7 steps to perform retrograde urohydropropulsion, March 2009