



PROSTATIC DISEASES

ABOUT THE DISEASE

The prostate gland is located in the abdomen and surrounds the base of the urinary bladder as the urethra travels to the penis. The prostate naturally secretes fluid that enhances motility and fertility of sperm.

Prostatic diseases are much more common in dogs, especially as they age and remain intact (not neutered). All **prostatic diseases** cause prostatic enlargement, which can sometimes be painful and can interfere with normal defecation and urination.

Common **prostatic diseases** include:

- Prostatitis – Infectious disease, typically in younger patients, often very painful and difficult to treat.
- Prostatic Cysts – Fluid-filled cysts, typically causing discomfort and straining.
- Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia – A benign overgrowth of prostatic tissue in older patients.
- Prostatic Cancer

OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS

Age of patient, clinical history, and physical examination often yield a presumptive diagnosis.

Abdominal ultrasound is the next most common diagnostic to visually identify changes within the prostate gland and help narrow the rule-out list.

Fine-needle aspirates, bacterial cultures of urine, and surgical biopsies are all utilized when a definitive diagnosis is required.

Routine laboratory testing is often not beneficial in diagnosing **prostatic disease** unless a patient with prostatitis has developed a secondary abdominal infection (septic peritonitis) or a systemic infection (sepsis).

TREATMENT

Treatment depends on the disease, but in most cases, having the patient neutered will reduce the effects of the diseases and may aid in recovery.

Common treatments for specific **prostatic diseases** include:

- Prostatitis – Neutering, one or combination of antibiotics, anti-inflammatories, and pain medications
 - Abscesses may need to be drained surgically or via fine-needle aspirates.
- Prostatic Cysts – Neutering, fine-needle drainage (temporary), and surgical removal
- Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia – Neutering
- Prostatic Cancer – Neutering, surgical excision of prostate, chemotherapy, radiation, and hormonal therapy
 - Success limited

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- The benefits and importance of removing testosterone by neutering cannot be over-emphasized.
- Care largely depends on the specific type of **prostatic disease** that has been diagnosed.