

Marbles And His Bladder Stones

In August 2005, Marvellous Marbles started peeing blood and crying. An X-ray by Jenny the vet (done without anaesthetic of course) confirmed my suspicions of a bladder stone, and Marbles was operated on the following day. The operation was carried out by Jenny under the supervision of James as it was her first guinea pig Cystotomy. It was a complete success, the stitching was very neat, and Marbles was bright and happy when he came home.

Marbles had never been a good drinker, so the task of giving him 40mls + of water a day by syringe started. After trying various different types of juices, I discovered Cow & Gate Concentrated fruit juices (for babies). They come in several different varieties and do not contain any artificial flavours, colourings, added sugar / sweetener or preservative. Adding 5ml to 55ml of water gives a nice low pH of around 4, which can help to acidify the urine and may help to prevent more bladder stones forming.

Despite my best efforts in modifying Marbles' diet (changing his dried food to Cavy Cuisine, cutting back on vegetables, making sure the Ca:Ph ratio of his food was correct) and giving him plenty of juice each day, he had grown a second bladder stone after just 5 weeks. So, he needed a second operation which was performed by James. Marbles came through the operation and anaesthetic without any complications, but was very poorly when he came home. He was also bleeding quite a bit during the evening. He had lost 5 ounces in weight in just a few days and was down to 2lbs 8oz from 2lbs 13oz. With plenty of pain relief (Rimadyl), Oxbow Critical Care, Reiki and lots of TLC, he started to improve over the next few days and was soon putting weight on again.



Thanks go to James Brooks, Jenny Towers and the nurses at Tilehurst Veterinary Centre for providing such excellent care for this precious guinea, and for getting him through two major operations in such a short space of time.

As soon as I discovered that Marbles had a second stone, I started trawling the internet to see what I could do to help him. After many hours staring at a screen, I found a human product called Uriflow from the US that sounded promising: <http://www.results-health.com/uriflow.html>

It has some pretty grand claims:

- 📖 **Dissolves stones** by acting on its chemical composition
- 📖 **Flushes out gravel** painlessly and cleanses the urinary tract
- 📖 **Prevents inflammation & urinary infections** caused by movement of existing stones
- 📖 **Effectively prevents stones from forming in the future!**

So, I figured that there was nothing to lose by giving it a try, and it turned up just two days later. Only a small amount is needed for a guinea pig dose, and Marbles has been having this product twice a day for the past two years. In this time, he has shown no signs of any more stones developing and has been happy and healthy. He still passes bladder sludge most days, but at least it comes out easily and doesn't cause him any pain.

All I can say is that the Uriflow has worked for Marbles and several other guineas with various on-going bladder problems. I can't vouch for the claim that Uriflow "dissolves stones", but it has kept Marbles clear of stones for almost three years. There have been no side effects, and he has not been back to the vet since his post-op checks. Both my vets know that I have been using this product and have been interested in the results. When Marbles' cage mate Florence went to see James the vet for some treatment during 2006, Marbles came along too. James was more interested in checking over Marbles as he hadn't seen him for six months! I think he was surprised at how well he had done considering the poor state he was in after his second operation. Sometimes you just have to take a leap of faith and try new things.

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