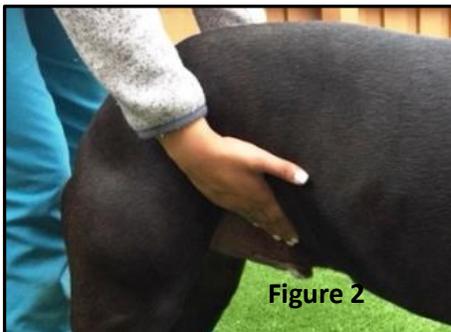


## Bladder Maintenance and Expressing the Bladder

Due to the nature of your pet's medical condition, and/or subsequent surgery, your pet may be unable to adequately empty his/her bladder. This may be due to the loss of muscle control that is necessary to perform this function. This can be due to anesthetic agents or medications, or nerve injury. The risk of infection or rupture is high when the bladder does not completely empty. The following technique, along with the medications you may have been prescribed, should prevent such an occurrence.

1. With your pet lying on his/her side place your hands behind the last ribs on both sides of your pet (**Figure1**). If your pet is strong enough to support his/her own weight, this procedure may be accomplished with your pet standing.



You may find that this procedure works better for you if your hands are facing toward the front of the animal as opposed to facing the rear (**Figure2**).

2. Apply equal pressure inward while gently squeezing the bladder to expel the urine. Steady and even pressure usually works the best. There may be a delayed reaction until your pet urinates, so hold your pressure for 3-6 seconds before repositioning your hands.
3. It may be necessary to gently knead the bladder to stimulate urination. Several attempts may be necessary before you achieve success. **Do Not Become Discouraged!**
4. This procedure may be repeated as long as physically needed. However, you should monitor the urinary output of your pet to determine whether the bladder is emptying sufficiently and also monitor your pet's bedding for evidence of urination.