**Spooky Urolith Centers**

This month we are focusing on the interesting, strange and scary things we have found in the center of uroliths.

- Suture was identified in approximately 10% of recurrent stones. When closing the bladder after a cystotomy, minimize placing suture in the bladder lumen to reduce its contribution to stone recurrence. **Image A**

- Plant awns/material are common in the western United States and sometimes enter the bladder and can become encrusted with mineral. **Image B**

- Toothpick - a migrating toothpick could have been swallowed by the pet because it held a tasty Halloween treat. In this case, the toothpick pierced the intestine, traveled to the bladder and initiated stone formation. **Image C**

- Fleas, louse, and other insects may climb up the urethra and become entombed in stones. **Image D**

**What do all of these spooky invaders have in common?**

Heterogeneous nucleation: the process where crystallization is enhanced by initiating over foreign-preformed surfaces.

**What’s in the center of your uroliths?**

For complete and accurate urolith analysis – please submit the entire urolith.