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# Postoperative Care of your Pet

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## General Comfort

Your pet may be a bit drowsy when they arrive home, so don't be concerned if they are sleeping more than usual. After the operation, peace and quiet is recommended for recovery. Make sure the animal's bed is warm, dry and comfortable. Remove any soiled bedding and do not use any expensive blankets in case they become stained. Avoid placing their bed in extreme of temperatures or draughts. Avoid making your pet walk upstairs and do not allow them to jump onto chairs or beds. This avoids stretching stitches, as well as avoid accidents due to impaired judgement due to sedation. Keep cats indoors on the night of discharge, and whilst stitches are in place.

## Exercise

During the first 24 hours following an operation, your dog should only be taken for short walks to go to the toilet. Long walks and contact with children should be avoided. Normally placid dogs may be irritable at this time and should not be disturbed. After the first day, you can resume gentle lead exercise, but avoid anything too strenuous until a week after any stitches are removed and the vet or nurse has pronounced the animal fit. In some cases, you may be given specific instructions about exercise.

## Feeding

Feeding instructions vary according to the procedure, and will be covered by the vet or nurse on discharge.

## Stitches

If your animal has stitches, the vet or nurse will show you the wound and describe the healing process. Please check the wound regularly for any bleeding, swelling, bruising or tenderness. If you see any of this, please call the surgery to speak to a member of staff. Often animals are sent home with a plastic buster collar to avoid wound interference. It is vital that this is kept on at all times to stop the animal licking the wound, and delaying the healing process. We will arrange an appointment for the stitches to be removed during the discharge. If stitches are on an area which could get wet (e.g. paw), we would recommend purchasing a protective covering, such as a mikki boot. If you find your animal licking its stitches and it doesn't have a buster collar, you should call the surgery during consulting hours and we will supply you with one.

## Medication

If your animal has medication to go home with, the vet or nurse will instruct you on dosage and methods of administration on discharge.