

Caring For Your Cat After Surgery



PATIENT DETAILS

Name of patient:

Procedure:

Stitches? YES / NO

If yes: Stitches will dissolve / Stitches Need Removal

Contact Information

Telephone (24 hour Emergency Line): 01472 347054

Telephone (Office hours): 01472 362821

Telephone (Office hours): 01472 240422

FOLLOW UP APPOINTMENT (POST OPERATIVE CHECK)

Write appointment time and which surgery it is booked in for below.

Please let us know if you are unable to attend the above appointment and we will arrange an alternative day/time. If you are concerned about your pet after an operation, please call us on 01472 347054 (24 hour emergency line).

Aspects of care to consider for your pet.

- General Comfort** - Your pet may be a bit drowsy when they arrive home, so don't be concerned if they are more sleepy 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 areas of extreme temperatures or draughts. Also, try to keep them away from other pets in the household as they may try to clean the wound for them or accidentally pull a stitch out while playing together.
- Exercise** - During the first 24 hours following an operation, your cat should be kept in a calm and quiet environment where exercise is restricted. Ideally there should be no jumping or playing for a few days following surgery, so you may have to restrict them to one area of the house to avoid them disturbing the wound or causing injury to themselves. If cats have no stitches, they should also be kept inside for a minimum of 3 days following the procedure. Cats with stitches need to stay in doors until these are removed to allow the wound enough time to start to heal.
- Feeding** - Due to the drugs used for anaesthesia, your pet may be nauseous for a short while following surgery, so a small bland meal such as boiled chicken or white fish later in the evening is ideal. Due to the anaesthetic your cat may vomit after eating. If this occurs, you should take away any remaining food and not attempt to feed them again until the following morning. Water can be offered as soon as you get home.
- Toileting** - Consider your cats litter tray substrate. Small particles may interfere with your cat's wound. Consider using shredded newspaper for the initial wound healing period.
- Stitches** - If your cat 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 always kept on 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. 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, methods of administration and how long to give these medications for. If you have any concerns regarding the medications, please do not hesitate to call.