

Caring For Your Dog 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 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 and causing unnecessary pain/injury.
- Exercise** - During the first 24 hours following an operation, your dog should only be taken outside to go to the toilet. 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. For a few days following surgery, contact with children should be avoided because even placid dogs may be irritable at this time and should not be disturbed.
- Feeding** - Due to the drugs used for anaesthetic, your pet may be nauseous for a short while following surgery, so a small bland meal such as boiled chicken, rice, white fish or scrambled egg would be ideal. Again, due to the anaesthetic your dog 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 should be offered as soon as your dog gets home but be aware that too much may cause vomiting so only small amounts to be in the bowl at any one time but do top the water up frequently.
- 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 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, on discharge. If you have any concerns regarding the medications, please do not hesitate to call.