

# Care Guides

## Post Op Care Guide

**Please keep your pet warm and quiet during the evening after the operation.**

- A quick trip into the garden is all that's required for dogs.
- Cats will need to be supplied with a litter tray and confined to the house for 24 – 48 hours.

**Effects of the anaesthetic may be seen for up to 24 hours.**

Water can be offered as normal but a light meal should be fed the first evening, about a third of their normal diet. Bland food such as chicken and rice is ideal. If your pet is on a special diet then discuss their requirements with your vet or nurse.

Please make an appointment for a post op check in 2 – 4 days, sutures/staples are to be removed at 10 days if required.

**For dogs, exercise must be restricted for 10 days (lead walking only),** prevent jumping if possible. Cats may need to be confined to the house.

To minimise the risk of infection, break down of sutures/staples and complications it is important to prevent patient interference. Pets must not be allowed to lick, rub, clean, groom or scratch at their surgical site. This can be done in several ways:

- a) Elizabethan or Buster collar – cone shaped or inflatable
  - This should be kept on at all times
  - Allowing a supervised break from the collar for eating and drinking is ok
- b) Surgical t-shirt
  - This should be kept on at all times
  - Keeping it clean and dry is important to prevent infection
  - Checking a minimum of twice daily for discharge
  - Changing the t-shirt for a clean one when wet or dirty
  - A pair of pants could be used to stop licking around the back end

If there is discharge (watery fluid, pus, blood) then gently bathing with cooled boiled water on cotton wool or a tissue.

Once a clean dry scab has formed, leave the site alone to heal.

If you have concerns about the wound or surgical site, then seek advice from one of our registered veterinary nurses or vets. If your pet has a dressing this must stay clean and dry.

**If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call the surgery on 01258 472314**