



POST OPERATIVE CARE FOR DOGS

RECOVERY

Most animals are much quieter than usual for at least 24 hours after an anaesthetic, so make sure there is a bed in a warm, draught free and quiet place.

FEEDING

After general anaesthesia (unless otherwise instructed) your dog may be offered water when she/he gets home and a diet recommended by the veterinary surgeon. Do not worry however if nothing is eaten that day. After a day or two, the appetite should return to normal.

EXERCISE

The patient should be restricted to short lead walks (500m and back again) to allow urination and defaecation. Prevent normal play, running, jumping up (stairs, furniture, people, into car etc.) until any stitches are removed.

GENERAL

You will notice a shaved area on one or both front legs. This is where the anaesthetic was given, and where fluid may have been given during the operation. If blood has been taken from your dog for various tests, you may notice the neck area has been shaved, but we usually use a foreleg. Nearly all dogs have a tube passed down their throat through which they breathe during surgery. As a result of this a cough may develop for a day or two afterwards. Following an anaesthetic some dogs may experience vomiting or diarrhoea.

STITCHES

Stitches are usually dissolvable unless otherwise stated. Prevent your animal from licking the wound as this delays healing and often leads to wound infections. You will be supplied with an Elizabethan collar and this is best left on all the time. Your dog will quickly adjust to it and can eat and sleep quite happily once used to it. The nurse will show you how to fit it. We cannot be held responsible for any additional charges being incurred if an animal interferes with a surgical wound.

Pronounced swelling, reddening, weeping or bleeding of wounds should always be reported to us promptly.

Special instructions

Please phone for advice if you are worried about any aspect of your pet's recovery - 01692 403202

Discharge checklist (Veterinary use only)

Wound checked

Cannula removed

Buster collar provided