

Taking your pet home after surgery

Your pet's procedure

When it comes to post-operative care for pets, there's no such thing as "standard procedure." Post-op specifics will vary depending on your pet's age and condition, as well as the exact type of surgery involved.

In general, it's common for most pets to be sleepy and a bit lethargic for the first 12-24 hours after surgery—which is why it's important to let them rest and recover. Confinement after surgery allows the tissue that was cut to heal back together,

The next 10-14 days

During the postoperative period (approximately 10 to 14 days) the wound needs to be kept clean and dry.

Check bandages, casts, and sutures daily and don't bathe your pet or let them swim. Also check the wound for excessive swelling, discharge, gaping or self-inflicted damage. Your pet should remain indoors overnight, going outside only for short leash walks as needed to urinate and defecate. For most procedures, your dog's activity should be restricted for at least 10 days.

**Any other questions?
Just ask, we're here to help.**



FAQ's

My pet seems very sleepy, is this normal?

The general anaesthetic and/or sedative can take a number of hours to wear off and in some cases can cause patients to appear drowsy for a day or so. Over the next couple of days, their behaviour should return to normal.

Can I feed my pet tonight?

Your pet may feel a bit 'off colour' and sometimes eating can cause vomiting. However, if you notice they are up and about in search of food, a small amount may be offered unless indicated otherwise by your veterinarian. Ensure they have plenty of fresh water at all times, particularly if you have been instructed to restrict their food.

What do I do if my pet licks or chews its stitches?

Allowing your pet to lick the wound could cause harm and an infection. If your pet's showing any interest in the area, an Elizabethan collar (plastic cone) is highly recommended to avoid mishaps. It's like that old saying.... *"a stitch in time saves nine"*.

Something doesn't seem right?

If you are unsure, at any stage about the recovery and health of your pet please call our team on 5546 3909 for medical advice.

Signs that indicate there may be a problem can include:

- extensive lethargy (particularly after 24 hours)
- vomiting
- excessive redness around the surgery site
- swelling or lumpiness around the surgery site
- bleeding or discharge from the wound

When do the stitches need to come out & will it cost extra?

Suture removal will be no additional cost as it's all included in the cost of surgery. (we don't like hidden surprises either!) Now, they will need to be removed 10 -14 days after surgery. We recommend scheduling this appointment with our nurses the day you pick your pet up from surgery, alternatively reach out to us via phone when you're ready on 07 5546 3909.

Should I bathe the area with salty water?

Short answer is no. The surgery site has to stay dry until the sutures are removed.