

**Blackwater Veterinary Clinic**  
**Shoulders Lane, Mallow, Co. Cork.**  
**Tel: 022-22340 Fax: 022-22123**

## **POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS**

Name of Patient.....  
Procedure Performed.....

What should I do when my pet arrives home after its operation?

On arriving home you should keep your pet warm and comfortable by providing a soft clean bed, ideally in a quiet and draft free room. Unless otherwise instructed offer your pet fresh clean drinking water, and after a few hours offer a small amount of food. Please keep your pet indoors overnight or longer if instructed. You should discourage any jumping or activity that will cause excessive stretching of the wound, especially during the first few days post-operatively.

My Pet seems to be very sleepy, is it normal?

Your pet has being given a general anaesthetic and/or sedative. These can take a number of hours to wear off and may cause patients to appear drowsy for a day or so. Over the next day or so their behaviour should return to normal, however if you are at all concerned do not hesitate to contact the surgery. Most animals sleep even more than normal in the first week after surgery.

My pet has developed a cough since the operation, is this anything to worry about?

Your pet may have had a tube placed in their trachea(windpipe) during the anaesthetic, which can occasionally cause mild irritation and a cough. This usually settles down within a couple of days, however if it persists please contact the surgery.

What should I do if my pet is licking its wound or chewing its stitches?

It is only natural that your pet may try to clean the operation site, however if it becomes excessive then there is danger of the stitches being pulled out of an infection being introduced into the wound. There are Elizabethan collars available to stop excessive licking of the wound area. If you have being given a collar to prevent your pet licking or chewing the area please use it, otherwise contact the office and we will arrange one for you. Not surprisingly many pets find these collars strange at first and will attempt to remove them. However, after a short period of time most pets will settle and tolerate wearing the collar.

What should the wound look like, and when should I be concerned?

The wound should normally be clean with the edges together and the skin a normal or slightly reddish/pink color. In some animals bruising and swelling may be seen around the wound. This may stay until a few days after the operation, and in some cases can seem excessive in comparison to the size of the incision, however this is due to the seepage of blood under the skin edges. In some cases a small amount of blood may seep intermittently from a fresh wound for up to 24 hours, especially if the animal is active.

Please contact the surgery if you see any of the following at the wound:

- ↪ Continuous seepage or a large quantity of blood
- ↪ Intermittent blood seepage continuing for more than 24 hours
- ↪ Any swelling, excessive redness of the skin or discharge.

When do the stitches need to be removed?

In general most stitches are removed 10-12 days after the operation depending on the type of surgery performed. You will be instructed when is the most appropriate time for your pet.

When can my pet resume normal activity?

This will depend upon the nature of the operation. For most surgical procedures we recommend lead exercise only until the stitches are removed.

Medication.....  
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Please **read the label carefully** and ensure that all medication is administered as instructed. If you experience any difficulty in dosing your pet please call the surgery for advice.

Comments.....  
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Revisit date:..... Removal of stitches.....

**If you have any concerns please don't hesitate to contact us immediately.**