



Zillmere Veterinary Surgery

Dr Karen Koks BVSc (Hons)

Dr Louise Lee BVSc (Hons)

PH: 3865 2020

422 Zillmere Rd, Zillmere 4034
info@zillmerevet.com.au

ABN: 58 398 772 142

POST OPERATIVE CARE

Your pet has undergone a surgical procedure. Please read through the following instructions to help with your pets' recovery.

PLEASE NOTE: These instructions should be used as a guide only. Your veterinary nurse will discuss all post-operative and home care required on the day of your pet's procedure. Some points may or may not be applicable to your pets' needs.

Caring for your pet after an anaesthetic:

- Keep your pet warm, quiet & confined until they are able to move around normally. For most pets, the effects of an anaesthetic can last up to 24 hours.
- Keep outdoor cats inside for 48 hours to ensure they have completely recovered from an anaesthetic and will be safe when outside.
- Only allow your pet access to small amounts of food and water – little & often for the first night. Please feed your pet their regular diet, unless instructed otherwise. A sudden change in diet could upset your pets tummy.
- Please advise us if your pet is not eating or drinking within 24 hours after arriving home.
- Provide a litter tray for your cat or make sure it is possible for your dog to be able to go to the usual place to urinate & defecate. Remember they may require assistance during their recovery period.
- KEEP QUIET and restrict your pet's activity until their sutures have been removed. Excess activity and exercise can result in swelling, irritation, wound breakdown or sutures rupturing.
- Your pet has had a catheter placed into their front leg. After removing this catheter, a light bandage is positioned to apply pressure to the area to minimise bruising. **Please remove this bandage after one hour.**

Check the wound DAILY – LOOK FOR:

- Frayed suture material or redness along the centre of the wound is an indicator your pet has been licking. It is VERY important that your pet DOES NOT chew or lick at their sutures during the healing period.
- If your pet is chewing or licking at their stitches they will need to wear an Elizabethan Collar.
- You can try applying Vicks Vapour Rub on the shaved skin around (not on) the wound to deter licking until you purchase a collar. This is a good deterrent for some pets, but may encourage some animals to lick the sticky substance off their skin.
- If you notice and stitches have been pulled out, bring your pet back to us as soon as possible. These may require replacing.

- Seek immediate attention if the wound is red, swollen, bleeding, discoloured, smelly or has a discharge.
- Keep the wound clean from dirt. If the wound site becomes dirty gently cleanse the area with warm salty water and dry thoroughly by patting with paper towel. If the wound has dirt inside the suture line, please call the surgery and arrange for our staff to clean the site. Medications may also be required.
- DO NOT take your pet swimming or give them a bath while the sutures are present.

Dispensed Drugs

It is important that all dispensed medications are used as per label directions. If you are unable to give or use them, please phone the surgery. Alternative methods may be available.

IF YOUR PET HAS BEEN GIVEN PAIN MEDICATION AND YOU FEEL YOUR PET IS STILL EXPERIENCING DISCOMFORT, PLEASE CONTACT THE SURGERY.

Stitches

- Stitches are removed at 10 days unless otherwise advised by the veterinarian. Please make an appointment for your pets' sutures to be removed.
- Always **keep wounds dry**. Your pet cannot swim or bath until their sutures have been removed.

Once again, please note that these instructions are to be used as a guide only. Your pets' nurse will go through all homecare information and instructions with you at your discharge appointment. This is just an overview to allow pet parents to have an understanding of some of the care required after a surgical procedure.

Some procedures, for example a cruciate repair surgery, will require more intense homecare, and this will be discussed at the time of the surgery.

