



**New Lambton
Veterinary Clinic**
ABN 81 395 995 057

POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR DOGS

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

Keep your pet warm – Keep indoors overnight. Provide fresh water. Offer a very small meal. Discourage activity that will cause excessive stretching of the incision, especially during the first few days post-operatively.

My pet seems very sleepy, is this normal?

Your pet has been given a general anaesthetic and/or a sedative. These drugs may take a number of hours to wear off and may cause some patients to appear drowsy for a day or so.

Why has my pet's foreleg and/or neck been clipped? Hair may have been removed to allow for blood collection and/or anaesthetic. There may be a small dressing on the leg, this can be removed the following day unless otherwise instructed.

My pet has developed a slight cough since the operation... Your pet may have had a tube placed in their trachea (windpipe) during the anaesthetic – this can cause mild irritation. If so it will settle down over a few days.

What should I do if my pet is licking its incision or chewing the sutures? Your pet may try to clean the operation site, however, there is a danger of the sutures being pulled out or infection being introduced into the incision. An Elizabethan-type collar can be used to prevent access to the incision. Woundgard or another bitter agent can be applied topically around the incision to discourage licking. If your pet does remove any sutures please call us as soon as possible.

What should the incision look like, and when should I be concerned? The incision should be clean and the skin a normal or slightly reddish/pink colour. Bruising may appear a few days after the operation, and in some cases can seem excessive in comparison to the size of the incision. Please contact us if you see: - 1. Continuous seepage or a large quantity of blood. 2. Intermittent blood seepage continuing for more than 24 hours. 3. Any swellings, excessive redness of the skin or discharge.

When do the sutures need removing? Most skin sutures are removed 10-14 days after the operation, as they are NOT dissolving. Please arrange an appointment time for this procedure. There is no charge for this procedure.

When can my pet resume a normal active life? Your pet must be restricted to exercise on a leash over the 7 day period following surgery to assist with the healing process. Swimming or bathing should be delayed until the sutures are removed. If you have been given any medication: - Read the label carefully and give all medication as instructed.

13 Clarence Road, New Lambton, N.S.W. 2305 · P.O. Box 125, New Lambton, N.S.W. 2305

Telephone: (02) 49528809 · email: newlambtonvets@bigpond.com ·

www.newlambtonvets.com.au

Fiona J. Wallace B.V.Sc. (Syd.) Ph.D. (Newc.) and Associates