

## Care of your cat Following IPLS Surgery

The following medications have been dispensed for your cat. Please ensure **all doses** are given. If you are having difficulty administering medications or your cat develops diarrhoea or vomiting, please contact your vet **immediately**.

### Medication:

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### Key Points for Aftercare:

The operation site will have been clipped (other sites may also have been clipped for administering drugs and fluids etc). Avoid your cat interfering with the surgical (and other clipped) site/s. Most wounds will be covered with a light adhesive dressing, and this often works loose or can be removed, after three to five days. Some cats need to wear an Elizabethan protective collar to prevent attention to stitches or dressings. If necessary, this should stay in place until the stitches are removed. Your cat mustn't be **allowed** to lick the surgical wound, as this may introduce infection.

Some swelling of the operated limb following surgery is normal (especially fluid accumulation around the hock). **Ice packs** for 10 to 15 minutes every 2 to four hours (if possible) **are recommended** in the first few days following surgery to reduce swelling and improve comfort.

Regular, gentle massage (sweeping motions from ankle to hip) may help dissipate oedema fluid. Range-of-motion exercises on the operated limb may commence after 5 to 7 days and may be performed several times daily, but **ONLY** if tolerated. Exercise each major joint of the limb e.g. hock (ankle), knee, hip with "bicycle" movements.

If the surgical site is causing excessive irritation, is **discharging** or if you are concerned **swelling** is excessive, please contact your vet.

### Confinement and permitted activity:

Confine appropriately to **eliminate running and jumping** for 6 weeks; cage confinement is advised for the first four weeks.

2 weeks following surgery allow supervised walking in one room for 5 minutes at a time, three to six times daily, but **maintain cage confinement** at other times.

After 4 weeks, confinement may be relaxed to a single room with non-slip flooring and only low-level furniture to prevent jumping. The temporary use of rugs or carpet offcuts is recommended for tiled floors.

After six weeks confinement may be further relaxed, although house confinement is advised until three months following surgery.

Hydrotherapy is beneficial to recovery and should be considered if progress in the first few weeks is unsatisfactory but should ideally be performed in a centre with qualified personnel who have **previous experience with cats**. Hydrotherapy may commence following suture removal provided your Vet is satisfied with wound healing.

### Re-examinations with your vet:

- **The Morning** after surgery if your cat was discharged the afternoon/evening of the surgery
- **3 - 5 days** following surgery: post-surgery check-up
- **10 to 14 days** after surgery: check on wound healing (suture/staple removal where present).
- **4 weeks** following surgery: progress check
- **6 weeks** following surgery: progress check

**Gradual improvement should be expected following surgery. If deterioration occurs, please contact your vet immediately.**

Variations from these aftercare instructions may increase the risk of post-surgical complications or otherwise affect the outcome; only make variations if **specifically advised** doing so by your vet.