

Care of your Dog following Cervical Spinal Surgery

Patients name:

Primary-care Vet:

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

Medication:	Dosage:	When to start:
Antibiotic:	Givedaily for days
Anti-inflammatory:	Givedaily for days
Opioid pain relief:	Givedaily for days
Muscle relaxant:.....	Givedaily for days

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 pet interfering with the surgical (and other clipped) site/s. Wounds may be covered with a light adhesive dressing and this often works loose, or can be removed, after several days. Some dogs need to wear an Elizabethan protective collar to prevent attention to the stitches or dressings. If necessary, this should stay in place until the stitches are removed. It is important your pet **not be allowed** to lick the surgical wound, as this may introduce infection.

Confinement: Your dog should be kept confined to a large cage or baby's play-pen.

Some swelling of the operation site in the days following surgery is normal. **Ice packs** for 10 to 15 minutes several times daily **are recommended** in the first few days following surgery to reduce swelling and improve comfort.

If the surgical site is causing excessive irritation, is discharging or if you are concerned swelling is excessive please seek veterinary advice.

Food and Water: Ensure that food and water bowls are always within easy reach. Water must be available at all times. Feed a good quality diet. Do not over feed.

Toileting: Monitor urination and defecation: if frequency is reduced from normal seek veterinary advice.

Bedding: Provide a soft surface as a bed with an absorbent top-layer – e.g. Vetbed or incontinence sheet. Bedding may need changing frequently. Ensure the skin remains clean, dry and free of urine or faecal soiling. This may require regular sponge-bathing. Always dry thoroughly after bathing.

Physiotherapy: Massage and passive flexion and extension exercises are not essential but may be performed on all **limbs** (if time is short focus on the forelimbs). They are best done with your dog lying on his/her side.

Re-examinations with Your Vet:

- **5 days** following surgery: post surgery check-up
- **10 days** after surgery: suture/staple removal and/or check on wound healing
- **3 weeks** following surgery: Progress check
- Additional visits as indicated by your Vet

Gradual improvement should be expected following surgery. If deterioration occurs please seek veterinary advice immediately.

Declaration:

I confirm receipt of this aftercare handout (2 pages). I understand that variation from the instructions contained herein may increase the risk of post-surgical complications or otherwise affect outcome; I should only make variations if **specifically advised** to do so by my Vet.

Owner's signature:

Vet's Signature:

Print Name:

Print Name:

Date:

Date: