



West Gippsland Veterinary Centre

Post-Operative Notes

Today your dog has received a general anaesthetic. You will need to take special care of your dog over the next 10 – 14 days to ensure a smooth and speedy recovery.

Immediately After

- Your dog may be a little drowsy for 12 – 24 hours. This is normal following an anaesthetic and surgery.
- Your dog has been given a pain relief injection to ensure a comfortable recovery. This generally lasts 24 hours.

When you get home

- Keep your dog in a quiet, warm place and feed your dog a small meal tonight. Some pets may not eat until the next day.
- Ensure he/she has plenty of fresh water available.
- Ensure that your dog makes no attempt to lick or pull at his/her stitches. Please ask us for an Elizabethan collar or alternatively construct your own collar if your pet has a tendency to lick.

Exercise

- **Please restrict your dog to toilet breaks on the lead only until the stitches are removed.**
- Most dogs have recovered fully from the anaesthetic within a few days. Unfortunately your dog may then start running and jumping which may upset the surgery and / or stitches.

Problems

Generally there are very few complications after anaesthetics and surgery, however, there are some signs to watch for that may indicate a problem.

- Dull and listless (especially after the first 24 hours)
- Swelling or discharges along the stitches.

Bandages

- It is essential to **keep all dressings dry**.
- If taking your pet for a walk outside, cover bandages with a plastic bag.
- Contact us if there is any moisture, swelling, odours or discharge from the dressing.

Post Operative Checks

West Gippsland Veterinary Centre provides a free post-op check 3 - 5 days after the surgery. We advise you to take this opportunity to detect any potential problems early. We require you to make an appointment for this check up. If you have any concerns prior to this date please do not hesitate to call.

Note: If your dog has external stitches present they will need removing in 10 days. Please arrange an appointment if this is necessary.