



VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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Post-Operative Information Booklet June 2015



Following a general anaesthetic you may notice that your pet is drowsy and may even be unsteady when walking. Some animals may shiver. Because of this it is important that they are kept inside the house the evening of the surgery. Provide a warm, dry comfortable bed in a quiet position.

You should offer a small portion of food and some water when you get home. It is OK if your pet does not want to eat the evening of their surgery, but we usually expect your pet to eat by the next day. It may be 24-36 hours before total recovery occurs.

It is possible that your pet may vomit initially when offered food due to nausea from the anaesthetic. This should only occur once or twice at the most. Persistent or intractable vomiting is considered ABNORMAL.

Hair may have been clipped from the forearm for injections and the placement of an intravenous catheter. There may be a temporary cough caused by the tube through which the anaesthetic was delivered, but this should resolve within 2-3 days of your pet's procedure.

Vigorous exercise should be avoided for a week after surgery.

Swimming and bathing are not allowed until 10 days after the surgery or until the sutures are removed.

Check the wound twice daily. Do not touch the wound as your hands may introduce bacteria and cause infection.

It is important that your pet is NOT allowed to lick the wound. The mouth of an animal is contaminated with millions of bacteria and each time your pet licks their wound, they introduce and "seed" their wound with these bacteria. This will set your pet up for a wound infection.

If your pet is prone to licking, you MUST utilize a "bucket" (Elizabethan Collar or E-Collar) to stop them from licking the wound. The "bucket" does not have to stay on 24/7, but it should definitely be applied when you cannot supervise your pet (ie: when you leave the house and when you are sleeping.)



If there are sutures present please ring and book an appointment for their removal in 10-12 days.

Please phone for advice if:

- **there is discharge or bleeding from the wound**
- **the wound becomes hot, swollen or painful**
- **there is constant licking or scratching of the wound**
- **there is repeated vomiting or refusal to eat after 24 hours**
- **your pet seems depressed or lethargic**
- **you are concerned for any other reason**

If we are closed and you are concerned that your pet is not recovering from their anaesthetic normally, we encourage you to phone an **emergency provider** immediately. Balmain Veterinary hospital utilises two emergency care providers.

1. Sydney University Veterinary Emergency Service:

Address: 65 Parramatta Rd, Camperdown NSW 2050

Phone:(02) 9351 3437

24 hour care

2. SASH (Small Animal Specialist Hospital):

Address: 1/1 Richardson Pl, North Ryde NSW 2113

Phone:(02) 9889 0289

24 hour care