



Orchard Road Veterinary Surgery, Inc
A Mobile Small Animal Veterinary Surgical Service

How to care for your pet after surgery

How do I know if my pet is in pain?

If your pet comes home the same day of surgery they will likely be groggy the first night after any sedation or anesthetic event. They may also be more vocal. This can be a sign of discomfort, but often it is a result of the medication given for pain relief and general anesthesia.

You can often tell the difference between pain and disorientation if your pet calms down and will readily sleep when being petted and comforted. If this is the case then it is likely not to be pain, but rather an effect of the anesthesia. If your pet still appears restless, is vocalizing, or is looking at or trying to bite at the surgery site they are more likely to be in some degree of discomfort.

You should have been given a pain relieving medication to give your pet. Only give the medication as directed by your veterinarian. If you have any concerns, do not give any additional meds before you contact your veterinarian, Dr. O'Brien or the local emergency clinic for advice.

You can also apply an ice pack wrapped in a light cloth to the incision if it is not covered by a bandage, for 5 – 10 minutes, 2-4 times a day to help reduce the local inflammation

How active should my pet be?

Your pet may unsteady at first when trying to walk. If a limb was operated on, your pet will likely put minimal or intermittent weight on it initially, but they should start to bear weight on it in a few days after the surgery. If they do not or suddenly stop using the leg please contact your veterinarian. Restrict them in the home to a level area, with good traction on carpet or runners and no unsupervised access to steps or stairs. They should also have easy access to getting outside (or using the litterbox) to urinate and defecate with assistance from you. This may require carrying your pet if small or using a sling under their belly to assist in walking.

How should I feed my pet after surgery?

(*** Please see the discharge instructions for specific feeding directions)

If your pet goes home the same day as surgery be sure to feed them only small amounts of food and water at a time. Canned or soft food may be more palatable to them at first. It is not unusual that they may not want to eat much the first night. They can usually return to their normal feeding schedule the following day. If your pet does not want to eat a day or two after surgery please contact your veterinarian.

If your pet is overweight or going to be limited in their activity for a while you may wish to consult your veterinarian about lower calorie diet options.