

My Pet Has Had An Operation: What Happens Next?

1. Your pet has had a procedure under sedation or anaesthetic and will likely need a little extra looking after, especially in the first 24-48 hours of recovery. **Your pet is likely to feel a little sleepy and may have some discomfort**, especially if they've had a major procedure. Your pet has been fully medicated with antibiotics and painkillers. You may receive further medicines to use at home over the next few days. **We will tell you all about your pet's procedure, medicines, and their individual post-operative needs.** We can provide you with written discharge instructions to help you look after our pet once you've got home. **If you have any questions please feel free to ask us at any stage.**
2. As with people, sedatives and anaesthetics may upset the tummy and your pet may not want to eat after you get them home. **Your pet may experience some sickness or diarrhoea as a normal reaction to having had an anaesthetic and operation.** For this reason we recommend feeding a smaller than normal meal if food is wanted. **We find something easy to digest most favourable and we can supply you with recovery packs of sensitivity food for immediate recovery phase.**
3. **Your pet's fur may have been clipped** to help with blood sampling, for injections or for an operation. This hair should regrow naturally. **Your pet may have some stitches** and we will have to be careful that he/she does not disturb the healing, **therefore we recommend the use of a collar to prevent licking.** We have several styles available to suit your pet's needs and can fit them for you.
4. **The most common complications are usually bleeding, swelling and infection which can lead to poor healing.** It is our policy to provide a post-operative check-up free with every operation. **Complications are uncommon but should one arise our free post-operative check-ups allow us to nip any potential problems in the bud.** We ask you to keep an eye out for any heat, pain, swelling or discharge for us. **Feel free to contact us at any time should you have any worries or concerns.**
5. If your pet has had an operation we would expect the wound to heal within 10-14 days. **Your pet may have nylon stitches which will need to be removed or dissolving stitches under the skin.** In either situation, we will see you again to make sure that the wound is fully healed and the operation successful.
6. Your pet may have had a dressing applied. **Any dressing should be kept clean and dry.** The dressing is usually expected to remain in place until your pet's post-operative check when it will be removed. **If there is a problem with the dressing we recommend removing it** as slipped or soggy dressing can cause more harm than good. **Please note that a small tape dressing may be applied to your pet's leg at the injection site for the anaesthetic and may usually be removed after a few hours.**
7. **Every animal is different.** Some may recover more quickly and some more slowly. **To ensure that your pet gets the best of care please keep in touch with us whenever you need.**