

DOWNES

Veterinary Surgeons

Recovering from surgery

Before surgery

On the night before your pet is due to have surgery, confine it to the house. Do not feed it after 20.00 hours, and remove any water when you retire for the night.

Collecting your pet after surgery

We will advise you when you can come to collect your pet, but make sure it is at a time that suits you and when you can spare enough time to talk to the vet or nurse and listen carefully to their instructions. If you are collecting an animal after it has had surgery you cannot expect it to be a quick dash in and a quick dash back out!

We might give you medication for your pet. Make sure you know what to do with this. If you are at all unsure about what to do, give us a quick call – we will be happy to talk you through it one more time.

The recovery period

If your pet vomits, call us. Most surgical wounds heal in 10 to 14 days, although some may take up to 21 days. If your pet has sutures (stitches), one of our vets will remove these later. Watch for loss of sutures, redness, heat, swelling, discharge, opening of the wound and whether your pet seems to be experiencing pain around the incision. Call us if any of these occur.

Sometimes an animal will shed sutures naturally, but do not let your pet lick or chew at the incision. One of our vets might fit a bandage or an Elizabethan collar to prevent this happening. A washcloth and warm water can be used to clean the area if it gets dirty, but baths are not recommended until after the sutures are removed.

Bandages should be kept clean and dry. If a plastic bag is used to keep a bandage dry for any reason, it should not be left on for more than 20 minutes at a time. If at any time the bandage slips or smells badly, or if the limb, toes, or tail becomes swollen, cold, or painful, call us immediately or bring your pet to the clinic.

A hospital stay can be very stressful to your pet. Many pets sleep more and eat less after leaving the hospital. However, you should call us if such behaviour continues for more than 2 days.

*First, I'm hit by a car.
Then I wake up with
my head stuck in a cone.
What are the chances, eh?*



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If you're not sure how to do it – phone us up – we'll talk you through it!