



Spey post- surgery information

This surgical procedure involves a midline incision in your pet's abdomen and the removal of her internal reproductive organs (ovaries and uterus). Whilst routinely performed, just as with human abdominal surgery, this is considered a major procedure and it is very important to follow post-surgery instructions to allow your pet to heal well.

Tonight

When you pick up your pet today you may notice the following:

- She may be more drowsy than normal due to the anaesthesia and pain relief medication administered. It is important that she be kept indoors tonight in a warm, quiet place where she can be monitored and allowed to rest. Please only offer her half her usual meal tonight and some water. If she does not wish to eat tonight that can be normal.
- She may have a small cotton band-aid on one of her fore (or occasionally hind) legs where access to the vein was obtained. Please remove this after 2 hours of picking her up from the clinic.
- The wound, which is on the underside of her abdomen and has internal stitches, may appear mildly bruised or there may be slight bleeding from the wound. It is not normal however for the wound to continuously drip blood or for there to be bleeding or bruising developing elsewhere on the body. These findings could indicate a clotting/bleeding disorder. If this is noted please contact the clinic immediately.

Day 1

- Please start the medication/s as directed on the label/s.

Day 7-10

- Please revisit the clinic for assessment of healing of the wound and determine whether she is allowed to return to normal activity.

Wound care

It is very important that your pet's wound be well cared for to allow optimal healing and prevent potential complications like infection or break down of the wound. This can be done by following the subsequent steps from pick up after surgery until the wound is confirmed to be healed at the revisit.

- Do not allow her to lick or chew at her surgical wound. We recommend she wears an Elizabethan collar if she is likely or noted to do so. This can be purchased from the clinic. This should be left on at all times until the revisit except when eating or drinking. If she needs to eat and drink at a time when you will be unable to monitor her placing the food and water bowls on top of a brick or other small elevated platform that the Elizabethan collar can fit over may allow her to access his bowls more easily.
- It is not recommended to cover the wound with any dressings at home or apply any creams or lotions to the wound unless instructed to by your veterinarian.
- Do not bathe her or allow her to swim or get wet until otherwise instructed.
- Keep her quiet and refrain from walking her except for on the lead for 5 minutes at a time to allow her to toilet. Prevent free play and running until the wound is confirmed to be healed. Prevent free play and running until the wounds are confirmed to be healed. If she is usually active it may be necessary to confine her to a small area such as the bathroom or laundry.
- Please prevent her from jumping (e.g. into cars and onto beds and couches) as this may slow healing of the wounds.

Problems to monitor for

In most cases with good aftercare no complications will develop. However, it is important to monitor for the following concerns:

- Being very dull and listless at any time but especially after the first 24 hours
- Very pale pink or white gums
- Not starting to eat or drink the day following surgery
- Vomiting, diarrhoea or straining to go to the toilet
- Redness, swelling, lumps or severe bruising around the surgical wounds
- More than a few drops of blood or clear fluid from the surgical wounds or any pus from the wounds
- Redness, swelling or discharge on the leg where the band-aid was located

If any of these are noted or you have any other concerns at all please do not hesitate to contact the clinic to chat to one of our nurses or vets. If you have any concerns outside of clinic hours please contact the Animal Emergency Centre in Hallam on 8795 7020.

Please make an appointment for your pet's revisit with our reception staff at discharge or by calling us. We all look forward to seeing you in 7-10 days.