



FACT SHEET

Post-Operative Care Following De-sexing

While de-sexing a dog is a basic, relatively safe operation, it still involves an incision in the abdomen and some internal surgery for females and surgery in a rather delicate area for males. That, in turn, requires some extra care afterwards. Unfortunately, dogs do not always understand that they must rest, so you have to help for a successful recovery.

Immediately after surgery

When you pick up your dog from PAH, he or she may seem a little drowsy. This is perfectly normal following an anaesthetic and surgery and will wear off over the next 12-24 hours. You probably will also see some bruising, the same as humans, so you shouldn't expect your dog to be completely normal for a few days.

How to care for your pet

Keep your new out-patient in a warm and quiet spot, giving only small amounts to eat and drink. The recovery process should only take a few days.

Pain control

Your pet will have been given a pain-relief injection before surgery and a long-acting injection on recovery. This will ease pain for the next 24 hours. If you feel your pet is still in pain, we can dispense further oral medication for home use.

Minimise activity

Although your dog normally will be fully recovered within a couple of days, he or she still needs time to mend. This means you should keep your dog as quiet as possible until the sutures are removed. Despite how normal your dog might feel, you'll have to keep him or her from jumping and running around and generally trying to undo our work.

Possible problems

Generally, we encounter very few problems after these operations, however, there are some signs to watch out for:

1. Dull and listless demeanour which may indicate pain (especially in the first 24 hours)
2. Redness or irritation around the suture line
3. Swelling or lumpiness around the sutures
4. Excessive licking at the wound (requires wearing of an Elizabethan collar).

If you notice any of these signs, please do not hesitate to call **9913-7979**. After all, we are your pet's other best friend.

Note: Some surgeries have buried dissolvable sutures which should be checked by us at seven days. Non-dissolvable sutures need to be removed at 10 days. In both cases, please ring for an appointment. (It's part of the service.)

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