



POSTOPERATIVE CARE INFORMATION SHEET

General information for the time after the operation

After an anaesthetic or operation, your pet should be kept **calm** and **warm**. Dogs should only be walked briefly on a lead three to four times a day. Running, jumping, climbing stairs and other **strenuous exercise should be avoided**. In some cases, post-operative cage rest may be necessary. The individual requirements for your pet's aftercare will be discussed with you in detail at the time of discharge. The **wound should be checked 2-4 days** after surgery and the **stitches should be removed** after 10 days. In many cases, these checks can also be carried out by your regular veterinarian.

The **surgical wound** should not be licked until the stitches have been removed after 10 days. The safest protection is provided by a plastic collar, which should at least be used when the owner cannot exercise control over the animal (e.g. at night or during longer absences). Please check the surgical wound **twice a day**. The wound should be **dry and not very swollen**. **Dressings** must be protected from moisture and should be changed by the vet every 3-5 days.

All patients receive **postoperative painkillers** and often also an antibiotic cover for a few days. The written instructions for the postoperative medication (e.g. start, dose, type and duration of administration) can be found on the dispensing containers. Please check these when the patient is discharged and contact our veterinary nurses if you are unsure. **Food and water** can usually be offered on arrival at home. However, start with a small portion first. The next day you can feed as feed as usual. Do not change the food but feed the animal its usual food.

Patients are often restless on the first night after a major operation. In most cases, the increased vocalizations are not due to pain, but to the side effect of the medication used to treat the pain. Opioids, which are often used to control pain during operations, can lead to **dysphoria** in the first few hours after anesthesia, which manifests itself in increased whining or whimpering. **In this case, please do not give additional pain medication without prior consultation and do not bring forward the next dose of pain medication**. This does not increase pain control, but only increases the risk of side effects such as vomiting.

If you have any **concerns or queries**, please do not hesitate to contact us or your veterinarian. This applies in particular to the following problems:

- Loss of appetite for more than 24 hours
- Difficulty breathing
- Bleeding or wound discharge for more than 24 hours after the operation
- Persistent vomiting or diarrhea
- Persistent pain, depression or weakness


Dr. med. vet. Georg Papadopoulos


Ulrike Eßrich