

Laryngeal Paralysis Surgery Aftercare Information

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Surgery Date: _____

Surgery Performed: Unilateral arytenoid lateralization (UAL) for laryngeal paralysis.

Convalescent Period: Most pets feel better immediately as they can breathe better. It is important to keep your pet quiet for the first 3-4 weeks to prevent breakage of the suture and swelling. Please call if you notice any concerns with breathing, or your pet does not progress as stated above. Some coughing and gagging following surgery is normal from both the surgery and the endotracheal tube. This should gradually improve over the next 7-10 days. Please call if you notice worsening of coughing or lethargy. Swelling on the side of the neck is normal following surgery and will become more significant if your pet is allowed to do too much activity, rub at the neck, or bark. Please call if you have concerns.

Nausea is common following General Anesthesia, in case of nausea:

- **FOOD AND WATER:** Large intakes of food and water following a hospital visit are common due to the excitement of returning home. This type of vomiting can often be eliminated by not allowing access to food or water for 2 hours after returning home.
 - o We recommend initially feeding your pet canned food formed into meatballs (about 3 cm in diameter) for 3-6 weeks. Once your pet has recovered completely, the consistency of the diet may be adjusted and you may try returning to dry food or what is normal for your pet. However if coughing or gagging is worse with dry food it either may need to be moistened or you may need to return to canned food made into meatballs.
 - o Do not give your pet any hard bones or treats until complete healing has occurred.

A bland diet such as Eukanuba Low Residue, Hill's I/D, or Royal Canine Intestinal diets can be purchased or a home-made diet can be made with a 50:50 mixture of a cooked protein source such as hamburger, turkey, chicken, or cottage cheese (all fat removed) combined with a carbohydrate source such as rice, pasta, or mashed potato. We recommend gradually mixing the regular diet into this bland diet during the first week home.

Exercise: We recommend use of a harness only with no neck leads used for the rest of your pet's lifetime. Limit activity to very short leash walks for bowel and urinary purposes for the first 3-4 weeks. Never leave your pet off the leash outside. Do not allow jumping, climbing stairs, or roughhousing with other pets or people. Strenuous activity can breakdown the surgical repair, preventing successful recovery. Additionally try to discourage barking for the first 4-6 weeks as this can break down the repair site (cause suture breakage).

- () Short walks are permitted on a leash only (10 minutes maximum). Do not leave your pet off the leash or unattended outside during the time of exercise restriction.
- () Please try to minimize any barking for 6 weeks.

Incision: Please check the incision site daily for redness, swelling, pain or discharge. Please call if any of these are noted. Do not allow your pet to rub or scratch at the incision. If this occurs please place a

sock on the paw, apply a t-shirt with a neck, or a stockinet from us, your regular veterinarian, or a pet supply store.

Medications:

- () **Fentanyl patch** (sizes available include 12, 25, 50, 75, & 100 ug patches): This is a clear plastic patch applied to your pet's skin for relief of discomfort or pain control. You will be instructed on when to remove the patch from your pet's skin (usually the date it should be removed will be noted). In most pets, the effects of this patch will work for about 3-5 days total (average of 4 days). It can be disposed of in two ways only, either place the patch in a plastic bag and return it to the office that dispensed it to you for disposal, or fold it in half, and flush it down the toilet. Do not allow pets or people to lick, eat or chew the patch because this may result in intoxication. The effects of the patch take 12-24 hours to either start to work or for the effects of the patch to wear off. Other medications can be used with the patch in place if needed and instructions on adjusting doses should be provided for you.
- () **Steroids** – Prednisone, Prednisolone, Dexamethasone, DepoMedrol, or other types are available: You will be instructed on the number of tablet(s) or partial tablet to be given and the frequency. This medication is usually administered on a gradually decreasing dose which is tapered over several days to prevent side effects from suddenly stopping this medication. Steroids are used for reducing swelling in the airway. Common side effects include an increase in drinking, increase in urinations, and an increase in appetite. Please continue to feed what is considered a normal amount of food to prevent weight gain during recovery. The time of the next dose that this medication is due will be noted on your discharge instructions (____ am/pm).
- () Pain relieving medications: **Tramadol** 50 mg: The dose will be given in terms of the number of tablet(s) or partial tablet needed to be administered by mouth and the frequency will be noted for you (either every 8, or 12 hours) for 10-14 days as needed for pain control. This medication is an opioid and may cause sedation, mild constipation, or a decreased appetite. These side effects are related to the dose of the medication. Please call your doctor if you have concerns about any side effects. If a Fentanyl patch has been applied to your pet, this medication may not be needed until the patch has been removed, however it can be started with the Fentanyl patch at half the recommended dose (unless already at ¼ tablet dose) if needed. Please call if you have additional questions or concerns.
 - () The first doses are due about 8-12 hours after removal of the Fentanyl patch
 - OR () The time of the next dose that this medication is due will be noted on your discharge instructions (____ am/pm).
- () **Anti-vomiting** medications such as Metoclopramide (Reglan) or Cerenia (Maropitant): The dose will be given in terms of the number of tablet(s) needed to be administered by mouth and the frequency will be noted for you (either every 8, 12, or 24 hours) for 3-5 days. This is an anti-vomiting medication. The time of the next dose that this medication is due will be noted on your discharge instructions (____ am/pm).
- () **Other: Antibiotics** may be administered if needed, depending on the case. The dose will be given in terms of the number of tablet(s)/capsule(s) needed to be administered by mouth and the frequency will be noted for you (either every 12 or 24 hours) for the appropriate number of days. Antibiotics would be used to prevent infection or treat contamination noted at the time of surgery. Any antibiotic may cause nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. Most side effects can be minimized by administering the medication with food. The time of the next dose that this medication is due will be noted on your discharge instructions (____ am/pm).
- () Other:

PLEASE RETURN your pet for (X) Incision check (suture/staple removal) in 10-14 day.