

Brachycephalic Surgery Aftercare Information

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Surgery Performed: () Elongated Soft Palate resection
() Stenotic Nares opening
() Other: Removal of everted laryngeal sacculles (in throat)

Convalescent Period: Most pets feel better over the first 7 to 10 days. Please call if you notice any concerns with breathing, or they do not progress as stated. Some blood-tinged saliva or nasal discharge can be noted and is normal for a few days. Please call if you see bleeding that does not appear to stop. Please call if you have concerns.

Incision: You will not be able to see some of the incisions as they may be in the mouth, however you will be able to see the sutures in the nose region (sutures may have color). We do not recommend you try to see the sutures in the mouth as they will not be visible.

- Incisions in the mouth: It is common for dogs to lick a lot as the sutures in the soft palate may feel funny. All of the sutures in the mouth region are absorbable and will not need to be removed.
- Nose incisions: Please check the incision sites 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 incisions/nose. Please use the Elizabethan collar to prevent damage to the incisions in the nose. The sutures may accumulate some debris or discharge due to their location on the nose and dog's tendency to sniff in the dirt, please try to minimize too much rooting with the nose in dirt or dirty locations. If you notice some debris on the sutures or nose, you can use a warm, damp washcloth on the area if needed to remove any crusting material or debris, just be careful and dab (not rub) at the area to minimize irritation and pulling on the sutures. The sutures will need to be removed in 10-14 days, but they are made of absorbable material in case they are not easy to find at the time of sutures removal which means that they will eventually dissolve on their own.

(X) **FOOD AND WATER:** Large intakes of food and water following a hospital visit are common due to excitement. The vomiting this often produces can be eliminated by no food or water for 2 hours.

(X) A bland diet is recommended for a few days. (see below for options)

(X) We recommend initially feeding your pet canned or softened food, that can be formed into meatballs for easier eating, for the first 10-14 days. If you would prefer to use dry food, we recommend soaking it for about 10 minutes in warm water to allow the hard kibble to soften. In about 2-3 weeks, once your pet has recovered completely, the consistency of the diet may be returned to what was normal for your pet prior to surgery.

(X) Do not give your pet any hard bones or treats until complete healing has occurred.

A bland diet such as Eukanuba Low Residue or Hill's I/D diet can be purchase or a home-made diet can be made with a 50:50 mixture of a cooked protein source such as hamburger, turkey, or chicken (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.

(X) **Water:** We do not recommend allowing your pet to drink a large amount of water without supervision for the first few days. Small amounts can be left, but we would recommend starting with small volumes of water.

Exercise: Limit activity to very short leash walks for bowel and urinary purposes for 2 weeks. Never leave your pet off the leash outside initially as they will want to run and this may cause mild to moderate swelling in the throat region until they are fully healed. Do not allow jumping, climbing stairs, or roughhousing with other pets or people. Strenuous activity can breakdown the surgical repair, preventing successful recovery. No neck leashes are recommended and we would recommend use of a harness lifelong.

(X) Short walks are permitted on a leash only (10 minutes maximum). Do not leave your pet off the leash outside unattended during the time of exercise restriction.

Medications:

- (X) **Steroids** were likely given to your pet during and after surgery to reduce swelling in the throat region, please DO NOT use any Aspirin-like medications or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications without consulting our office or your regular veterinarian. Your pet may be sent home with additional steroid medication on a tapering dose over a few days to reduce swelling further following surgery. Please see your specific instructions or medication bottles for more information.
- (X) 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. The time of the next dose that this medication is due will be noted on your discharge instructions (_____ am/pm).
- (+/-) **Antacids** such as Pepcid AC (Famotidine) or Zantac (Ranitidine) may be recommended: 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 12 or 24 hours) for 5-7 days. This is an acid reducing medication which can be purchased over-the-counter in any pharmacy, drug store, or grocery store. The time of the next dose that this medication is due will be noted on your discharge instructions (am/pm).
- (X) **Anti-vomiting** medications such as Metoclopramide (Reglan): 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:** Other medications, particularly sedatives may be added as deemed necessary. (see sedative section for comments).

** Please note: If your pet will not take medications in food (such as a meatball), we recommend being careful with pilling your dog (manually putting pills in the back of the throat). If your pet will not take medications easily, please be careful putting medications on one side or not all the way back to the throat region when administering medications.

PLEASE RETURN your pet for (X) Incision check (suture/staple removal) in 10-14 days.
Other rechecks may be recommended.