

Ear Surgery Aftercare Information

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Surgery Performed: () Ventral Bulla Osteotomy
(X) Total Ear Canal Ablation - Right/Left side

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 swelling of the side of the face or in the neck where surgery was performed is normal following surgery and will become more significant if your pet is allowed to do too much activity, rub at the face, shake their head, or bark too much. Most of these swellings resolve with no treatment. They are not overly painful, and usually resolve in about 5-7 days. Initially, a cold compress can be applied to the side of the face or ear for about 10 minutes for the first 2-3 days. This can be changed to a warm compress after about 3 days. Please call if you have concerns.

(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.

(+/-) A bland/special diet may be needed for a few days until your pet is eating.

(X) We recommend initially feeding your pet canned or softened food for 3-4 weeks.

Once your pet has recovered completely (in 3-4 weeks), the consistency of the diet may be returned to what is normal for your pet. If your pet would not eat canned or softened food you can try dry food.

(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 purchased 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.

Incision(s): Please check the incision site(s) 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(s). If this occurs please obtain an Elizabethan collar from us, your regular veterinarian, or a pet supply store. No medication should be applied to the incision unless otherwise instructed.

(X) E-collar: An Elizabethan collar is recommended AT ALL TIMES until your recheck (for the first 2-3 weeks). Your pet cannot scratch at the incision(s) as it will damage the incisions and prevent successful healing.

Exercise: Limit activity to a small room for the first 2 weeks. Do not allow unrestricted jumping, climbing stairs, or roughhousing with other pets or people for 2 weeks. Strenuous activity can breakdown the surgical repair, preventing successful recovery.

(X) Short periods of time on a single level can be allowed with direct supervision.

(X) Please do not let your pet outside during recovery.

(X) LITTER PAN: Use shredded paper or Yesterdays News for litter for 10-14 days. If your pet will not go to the bathroom in this material, you can cover the regular litter box with a plastic bag (and place some of the shredded paper on top of the plastic to absorb urine). This will allow your pet to feel the litter under the bag and they will be more likely to use the box this way.

(X) LAB /BIOPSY RESULTS: The removed tissue was submitted to the lab for testing and a culture was likely performed. The results may take up to 7 days to return from the lab. Dr. Hodge will call with the results when they arrive, but please call if you have not heard from her in about 10 days. These results will be faxed to your regular veterinarian.

(X) **Additional notes:** You may notice an elevation of the third eyelid, a small pupil, or some laziness of the eyelids on the side that had surgery. This is a frequent post-operative finding just related to flushing of the bulla and in most cases resolves within a few weeks (4-6 weeks). Please call if you notice any discharge from the eye (particularly green or yellow), squinting or clouding of the eye, or redness of the eye.

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.

() Pain relieving medications: **Buprenex 0.5 mg/mL:** The dose will be given in terms of the number of mL (1 syringe full of pre-filled medication) 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 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).

- () **Other: Antibiotics** will be used until the results of the culture return from the lab. We may either give an injection that lasts for 10-21 days or oral options may be administered, 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 treat the expected 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).
- (X) **Other: Artificial Tears (Eye ointment):** Please apply ¼ inch strip to the right eye every 6-8 hours (3-4 times a day) initially to be sure that there is good tear spreading across the eye. Temporary paralysis of the nerve that runs to the eyelid and the side of the face is common following surgery. Most temporary changes resolve in about 4-6 weeks. This medication is recommended to be continued until you are told that the eye is normal and this medication is no longer needed. A human product can be used if desired for longer action, please ask if you have concerns. The next application is due about _____ am/pm.
- (X) **Other: Topical ear medication – only if indicated.**
- (+/-) **Anti-inflammatory medications:** Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID's) are not always used in cats, but options include Metacam or Onsior® (Robenacoxib): (tablet sizes or liquid concentrations vary depending on the product): The dose will be given in terms of the number of tablet(s), partial tablet, or volume of liquid (in mL) needed to be administered by mouth and the frequency will be noted for you (either every 12 or 24 hours) for 10-14 days as needed for pain control. These medications reduce inflammation, pain, and swelling Do not give any other medications (particularly NOT Aspirin or steroids) with this medicine unless instructed by a veterinarian. Stop administering this medication if you notice any vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, or black tarry stool. The time of the next dose that this medication is due will be noted on your discharge instructions (_____ am/pm). Some doctors prefer that this medication is not started until your pet leaves the hospital and is eating more normally.

PLEASE RETURN your pet for (X) Incision check (suture/staple removal) in 14-21 days
(X) Re-examination 6-8 weeks.