

Ear Surgery Aftercare Information

Susan Hodge, DVM, DACVS-SA

Surgery Date: _____

Surgery Performed: () Ventral Bulla Osteotomy
(X) Total Ear Canal Ablation - 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 drooling is normal and should gradually improve over the next 3-5 or 7-10 days. 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 (formed into meatballs/in blended form) 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.

(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.

(X) **Surgi Sox is a DogLeggs® Product:** Your pet may have a grey colored covering (stocking) over the head/ears. This Surgi Sox product protects the head, covers the incisions, and the ears, but will still allow you to look underneath the bandage to check on the healing during recovery. We used to place bandages on the head which required frequent bandage changes, and we find that many pets prefer this option to a bandage covering the head. This sock may slip and can be adjusted as needed for your pet's comfort. If your pet does not seem to like it, it can be removed. This Surgi Sox product is washable, so please remove it and wash per the instructions given with the Surgi Sox

(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 very short leash walks for bowel and urinary purposes for 2-3 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.

(X) 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.

(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, moving the Facial nerve away for surgery, and in most cases resolves within a few weeks (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:

(X) **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.

(+/-) **Anti-inflammatory medications:** Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID's) include Rimadyl (Novox, Carprofen), Deramaxx, Metacam, Previcox, and others are available in either Brand name or generic forms: (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.

- (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. 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).

- (X) **Other: Antibiotics** will be administered until the results of the culture return from the lab and may need to be continued, 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).

- (X) **Other: Artificial Tears (Eye ointment):** Please apply ¼ inch strip to the _____ eye (on the same side that had ear surgery) 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.

PLEASE RETURN your pet for (X) Incision check (suture/staple removal) in 2-3 weeks.

(X) Re-examination 6-8 weeks.