



# RECOVERING FROM SURGERY

## Collecting your pet after surgery

We will advise you when you can come to collect your pet but please make sure it is at a convenient time and that you are not likely to be in a rush when you arrive. This is because the vet or nurse will need to spend some time with you discussing your pet's recuperation so that you know exactly what to expect when you get home. They will also explain what you need to do to help him or her towards speedy recovery.

We might give you medication for your pet. Make sure you know what to do with this. If you are at all unsure about what to do, give us a quick call – we will be happy to talk you through it.

## The recovery period

Most surgical wounds heal in 10 to 14 days, although some may take up to 21 days. If your pet has skin sutures (stitches), one of our vets will remove these at a later date. Watch for loss of skin sutures, redness, heat, swelling, discharge, opening of the wound and

whether your pet seems to be experiencing pain around the incision. Call us if any of these occur.

Sometimes an animal will shed skin sutures naturally, but do not let your pet lick or chew at the incision. One of our vets might fit a bandage or an Elizabethan collar to prevent this happening. A washcloth and warm water can be used to clean the area if it gets dirty, but baths are not recommended until after the sutures are removed.

Bandages should be kept clean and dry. If a plastic bag is used to keep a bandage dry for any reason, it should not be left on for more than 20 minutes at a time. If at any time the bandage slips or smells badly, or if the limb, toes, or tail becomes swollen, cold, or painful, call us immediately or bring your pet to the clinic.

A hospital stay can be very stressful to your pet. Many pets sleep more and eat less after leaving the hospital. If your pet vomits on the first day call us.

## Contact:

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Monmouth, Gwent, NP25 5AH  
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