

## **AMV Post-Operative Care and Management (01453 543516)**

Specific post-operative advice re medication and details relating to particular surgical procedures will be given to you on collection of your pet.

These notes are general advice notes for all pets recovering from sedatives / anaesthetics and operations.

### **Planning for your pet's recovery**

Most pets need extra care and attention for the first 48 hours after a procedure. After this they will generally be back to some sort of normal routine but it is not for a full 10 days that they will be back to normal exercise and activity.

Some operations however, like orthopaedic procedures, can involve restricted exercise for much longer.

Other pets can pose some difficulties for the first day or so. Your pet will need a quiet place especially if the house is noisy and busy. Another pet leaping all over them will not be welcome, especially for the first night, so keeping them separate or closely supervised will be essential.

### **Post-operative pain relief**

Despite modern pain relief treatment most pets show some discomfort after operations and this can be at its worst during the first 24 hours after a procedure. Your pet will have been given pain relief while with us and you may well have been sent home with more to be given.

Your pet will be quieter than normal and will need some extra TLC.

If you think your pet is showing undue pain or distress then please contact us.

As days pass then your pets should gradually return to normal.

Initially your pet will not be keen to exercise but as he/she feels better then they will start to be more active. Exercise needs to be restricted and on a lead until you are advised otherwise.

### **Care of wounds and stitches**

If your pet has stitches or a surgical wound then many pets inevitably try and interfere with these. Some don't but you should be prepared that they mostly do. We will routinely provide you with a plastic collar to help prevent wound interference. Pets don't like these but once they are fitted and secured in place pets will cope with them. There is always an initial 'acclimatisation' period and if you think this will be difficult then we can arrange to fit and get your pet used to its collar before you collect him/her from us. If your pet shows distress with the collar then removing it will mean they will never 'get used to it'. Reassure them but leave them to 'learn' to accept it and most do so pretty quickly. A strong pet can damage a collar over a few days and replacements can be provided.

We also use bandages or adherent dressing to prevent a pet getting to their wound. These should be kept clean and if they are coming loose then please contact us for advice.

### **Normal bodily functions**

Your pet may not initially have a great appetite but we like you to encourage them to eat and drink as soon as possible (unless you are advised otherwise). Light food and things that they are

particularly fond of can tempt a reluctant pet to eat. Fluids are important and you can add water, stock or even milk to your pet's diet to encourage fluid intake. If your pet has had dental work or mouth surgery then soft food (soaking biscuits does a similar job) should be offered for a few days following their procedure.

Your pet should pass urine by the morning after the operation. Motions can take a bit longer to pass through as your pet was likely 'starved' before his/her operation. If you are convinced that your pet isn't going to the toilet then please call us.

### **Post-op checks and charges**

We will contact you the day after your pet's operation and check on progress and this is a good opportunity for you to ask if you have any questions about your pet's recovery.

Your pet will normally receive a post-operative check up 2-3 days after their procedure. Most pets are well on the mend by this stage and feeling lots better. This check up is included in the cost-of your pets operation.

Pets that have stitches that need to be removed get a second free of charge examination to remove these and be checked again.

Pets that have dental work done will receive a free of charge check up a week after the treatment to ensure their mouth is healing and to discuss ongoing dental care.

Some complex procedures require more than 2 check ups and these additional examinations may be charged in addition to the cost-of your operation.

Similarly pets that have bandages or dressings may incur extra charges if bandages need to be replaced or changed during the post-operative period.

**We offer a 24 hour service and if you need advice or are worried about your pet's recovery then please contact us at the clinic (01453 543516) at any time**