

## Frequently Asked Post-Op Questions (FAQs)

*Q: When will my pet have a bowel movement?*

A: It is normal for your pet to have a bowel movement any time after surgery but it can be 1-3 days after surgery before a bowel movement is seen. This is due to a combination of fasting, anesthesia and medications that have been sent home with your pet. Please call our office if your pet is straining to defecate or if no bowel movement has been seen 5 days after surgery.

*Q: What if my pet has diarrhea?*

A: Some diarrhea can be a common side effect for some pets due to the stress of surgery and the change in their daily routine. Please call our office if the diarrhea is lasting more than 48 hours after being home or if your pet seems to be having an excessive amount of diarrhea. Occasionally there can be a small amount of bright red blood in the diarrhea if your pet has been stressed, but again, please call our office if you think it is excessive or if you are concerned.

*Q: What if my pet seems to be urinating large amounts often or leaking urine while resting?*

A: Your pet may have received a lot of IV fluids while in hospital. It can take 1-2 days for those to be flushed out of their system and things to return to normal. Also, some medications used during surgery can affect your pet's ability to urinate normally for a couple days. Offer additional short walks and additional time outside to give them the opportunity to relieve themselves more frequently. Please call our office if your pet has not urinated at all in 24 hours or if you think they are straining to urinate.

*Q: What do I do if my pet won't take their medications?*

A: Bread cream cheese, peanut butter or chicken meat balls are great at hiding medications. First offer them the treat without the pill, then hide pill in the next offering and lastly offer again without the medication. Pill Pockets™, which are sold at most pet stores, are another great way to hide medication and can be used similarly to the aforementioned treats.

Some pharmacy will provide gel caps. These can be used to hide your pet's pill in. They mask the taste and your pet may take them better in treats than just the pill itself.

If your pet still doesn't take the medication, a pill gun or pill stick can be used to push the pill to the back of the throat. Once the medication is there, remove the pill gun or stick and close your pet's mouth. Rub their neck until they swallow. A small amount of water can also be syringed into their mouth to help them swallow.

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If you continue to have difficulty getting your pet to take their medications, please call our office.

*Q: How long should I give medications for?*

A: It is important to finish all medications provided as directed. It is especially important to finish all antibiotics as prescribed unless directed otherwise.

*Q: What if the medication is making my pet sick?*

A: If you think your pet is not tolerating the medications well, first make sure you try giving the medications with a small meal, unless otherwise instructed. If you are still concerned your pet is sick from the medications, please call our office so we can discuss what the next steps should be.

*Q: Can all the medications sent home with my pet be given together?*

A: Unless otherwise directed in your discharge paperwork, all medications being set home are safe to be given at the same time.

*Q: When can my pet have a bath?*

A: We recommend your pet does not have a full bath or get groomed until their incision has healed (usually after two the week recheck).

*Q: What if I have questions after the surgery service has closed for the day?*

A: You can always call Metropolitan Veterinary Hospital ER service at 330-666-2976. However, they do not have the intimate knowledge nor same relationship we have with your pet, so please be patient while they help answer your after hours questions. When calling, please inform them with whom your pet had surgery, what the surgery was and how long ago the surgery was performed.