



# Frequently Asked Post-Op Questions

Metropolitan Veterinary Hospital Surgery Department

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

Your pet may have received a lot of IV fluids while in the 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 few days. Offer additional short walks and additional time outside to allow them to relieve themselves more frequently. Please call our office if your pet has not urinated in 24 hours or if you think they are straining to urinate.

## *When will my pet have a bowel movement?*

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

## *What if my pet has diarrhea?*

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 diarrhea lasts more than 48 hours after being home or if your pet seems to be having excessive diarrhea. Occasionally there can be a small amount of bright red blood in diarrhea if your pet has been stressed, but again, please call our office if you think it is excessive or concerned.

## *When can my pet have a bath?*

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

## *What should I do if my pet is not interested in eating or drinking?*

Try not to worry. No one likes to be forced to eat when they are not feeling well. If your pet received IV fluids while in the hospital, it is likely that they are well hydrated. If your pet shows no enthusiasm for the regular diet, you can offer boiled chicken or boiled hamburger and rice.



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### *What to do if my pet won't take their medications?*

Bread, cream cheese, peanut butter, or chicken meatballs are excellent at hiding medications. First, offer them the treatment without the pill, then hide it in the next offering, and lastly, offer it again without the medication. Pill Pockets™, sold at most pet stores, are another great way to hide medication and can be used similarly to the treats mentioned above.

Some pharmacies will provide gel caps. These can be used to hide your pet's pill. 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.

### *How long should I give medications for?*

It is important to finish all medications provided as directed. It is essential to finish all antibiotics as prescribed unless directed otherwise.

### *What if the medication is making my pet sick?*

If you think your pet is not tolerating the medications well, try giving the medicines with a small meal unless otherwise instructed. If you are still concerned your pet is sick from the medications, please call our office to discuss the next steps.

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

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

### *How can I tell if my pet is uncomfortable?*

Interpreting signs of pain in animals is a challenge, even for veterinary professionals. Some common things to watch include vocalization, difficulty finding a resting position, restlessness, anxiety, disinterest in attention or affection, and lack of enthusiasm for food or treats.

### *How do I care for the incision area?*

There is no need to apply antibiotic ointment or other medication to the skin. Monitor the area for redness, swelling, or discharge, and call us if any abnormalities develop.



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*I am afraid my pet will gain weight. Should I feed him/ her less during the time of exercise restriction?*

No. You should feed your pet the same amount of food you would typically offer **unless otherwise instructed by a doctor**. An important part of a pet's recovery is having proper nutrition for healing. It is, however, acceptable to decrease or eliminate treats or snacks to avoid excessive weight gain.

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

You can leave a voicemail or email us with your questions or concerns. We will get back to you within 1-2 business days. If your pet is experiencing an emergency, please contact Metropolitan Veterinary Hospital ER service at 330-666-2976 Akron or 440-673-3483 Cleveland East or have your pet seen through the closest emergency clinic.

## **What do I do if I have additional questions?**

Please contact our office for any questions or clarifications regarding this handout:

**Office Hours:**

**Monday-Friday 8 am-5 pm**

**Saturdays 8 am-2 pm**

Metropolitan Hospital Surgery Department (Akron)

1053 S. Cleveland-Massillon Rd.

Copley, OH 44321

(330) 670-2358

[surgeryakron@metropolitanvet.com](mailto:surgeryakron@metropolitanvet.com)

**Office Hours:**

**Monday-Friday 8 am-5 pm**

**Closed on Saturdays**

Metropolitan Hospital Surgery Department (Cleveland East)

734 Alpha Drive

Highland Heights, Ohio 44143

216-201-9843

[surgerycleveland@metropolitanvet.com](mailto:surgerycleveland@metropolitanvet.com)