



## **Postoperative Care After Anal Gland Removal**

### **1. Exercise Restrictions**

Leash walk to urinate and defecate for 2 weeks (dogs); avoid unrestricted activity outside, and avoid playing with other dogs/pets inside the house during this time period. An Elizabethan collar may be necessary during healing to prevent licking of the wound or chewing at sutures

**2. Some swelling of the wound is normal**, as is some bruising, which can be dark red/blue. As healing progresses, the swelling can move outward and the bruising may spread. You should become concerned that your pet may have an infection IF:

A: The wound becomes very swollen or discharges a yellow or green material. B: Your pet becomes very depressed or lethargic.

Sometimes the wound will ooze some blood during the first 24-48 hours at home, particularly after a bowel movement. You should not be alarmed at this; you may hold a cotton sponge over it for 5-10 minutes to stop the bleeding if necessary, but it will typically resolve spontaneously.

### **3. What is a normal postoperative course?**

Your pet should want to drink, and may eat with a little coaxing in the first 24-48 hours following surgery. He/she should be urinating normally; however, it may take 2-3 days for a bowel movement, and when this occurs, there may be straining for the first several times he/she has a bowel movement. For a few weeks, your pet may be temporarily incontinent as a result of the procedure. Trauma to the sphincter muscles does occur as the anal glands are situated immediate to these muscles. Be patient with any "accidents". This should improve over a few weeks - permanent fecal incontinence is uncommon after this surgery. An occasional complication which can occur from straining is rectal prolapse, where the red tissue of the rectum will poosh out of the anal opening after defecation. If it persists and will not go back in, please call your veterinarian as soon as possible.

**4. Dietary recommendations:** There are no specific recommendations regarding diet, but high fiber supplementation or stool softeners may help. For dogs, some do well with sprinkling a little Metamucil (unflavored) on the food regularly to minimize straining during bowel movements.

