



Postoperative Care After Limb Amputation

1. Exercise Restrictions

Keep your pet inside until the sutures have been removed; avoid activity outside, and avoid playing with other pets inside the house until healing is complete. It may take some time for your pet to adjust to, and compensate for, the loss of a limb – this happens rapidly, but the occasional fall may occur. No special physical therapy is required following surgery.

2. Some swelling of the wound is normal, as is some bruising, which can be very 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. You should not be alarmed at this; you can hold a cotton sponge over it for 5-10 minutes to stop the bleeding.

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 to occur as anesthesia and pain medications may cause constipation. Alternatively, some pets have mild diarrhea following general anesthesia. In any event, these things usually work themselves out in the first 2-3 days after surgery.

4. Dietary recommendations: There are no specific recommendations regarding diet.

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