



Postoperative Care After Perineal Hernia Repair

1. Exercise Restrictions

Avoid unrestricted activity outside, and avoid playing with other pets inside the house.

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, 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 stretching the muscles during the repair. Be patient with any “accidents”. This should improve - permanent fecal incontinence is rare after this surgery, but is possible. An occasional complication is rectal prolapse, where the red tissue of the rectum will pooch out after defecation. If it persists and will not go back in, please call for advice as soon as possible.

4. Dietary recommendations: There are no specific recommendations regarding diet, but high fiber supplementation may help. Consult with your veterinarian for dietary recommendations.

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