



POSTOPERATIVE CARE FOLLOWING UPPER AIRWAY SURGERY (No Tracheostomy)

Following upper airway surgery, your pet should be kept quiet in order to keep the respiratory rate low, as excessive air flow across the surgery site may exacerbate inflammation. Observe your pet closely for any signs of difficulty breathing – wheezing, excessive coughing, or increased effort to breathe.

Your pet may have a small amount of water 6-12 hours after surgery. Food in the form of soft meatballs may be fed 24 hours after surgery. Feed meat balls one at a time, and observe for coughing, gagging, or vomiting. Continue to feed meatballs as described above for 5-7 days before resuming the normal diet. If gagging or coughing occurs, offer a small amount of water and try feeding a smaller meatball of food again in a few hours. During the first 5—7 days after surgery, occasional coughing or gagging may be observed, but it should not be excessive.

Exercise should be restricted for 30 days, using a harness instead of a neck collar for attaching a leash. No off leash activity, running, etc for 30 days!

The stitches/suture material will dissolve and does not need to be removed.

Upper airway disease is a dynamic process and symptoms can reoccur – please contact your veterinarian if you have any questions or concerns.

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