

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER AN AMPUTATION

Your pet has been through a surgical procedure and will need special attention for a full, uneventful recovery. Please read and review the following instructions. It is your responsibility to understand these instructions to ensure your pet's recovery is successful.

Diet: Offer small amounts of food and water when you get your pet home. Any favorite foods or treats can be offered. If your pet does not vomit, small increments of food and water can be given throughout the day. Resume normal feeding the day after surgery. If your pet refuses to eat or drink anything for 48 hours, please report this to us.

Medications: Your pet will come home with oral pain relievers, and antibiotics. You should be informed when to start medications prescribed to your pet. Please observe recommendations for giving with food if stated. Sometimes this medication can cause stomach upset, if vomiting and/or diarrhea occur please report to a veterinarian.

Incision Care: Your pet may come home with a bandage at the discretion of your veterinarian, these must be kept dry at all times. If the bandage becomes wet or slips out of place, it is important that it be changed immediately by a veterinarian, please contact us or your primary veterinarian if needed. **BANDAGE SHOULD ONLY BE CHANGED BY A VETERINARIAN.** An Elizabethan Collar is used in the first 10–14 days to prevent licking or chewing. The wound must not be interfered with or bathed. A T-shirt can make a good, improvised cover for wounds on the body of large dogs, but must be changed regularly so it doesn't stick to the wound. For some surgeries there are skin sutures to remove. If external sutures/staples are present, we ask you to make an appointment for 10 to 14 days post op for us to remove them.

Activity Level: Exercise restrictions following surgery are recommended to protect pets from injury while they gain strength and coordination after amputation. Your pet should be kept in a comfortable, safe indoor location for 24–48 hours until he is steady on his feet. Do not allow free access to stairs or slippery floors. Sling support can be helpful to assist your pet to rise and balance, especially on slippery or uneven surfaces. For front leg amputees, a sling is placed under the chest. For back leg amputees, a sling is placed under the belly. Cage rest and leash walks only for the first 10-14 days. Increasing amounts of walking (no running or jumping) for then next two weeks. Incisional swelling, bruising, and redness is common but should improve after several days. Seroma, or fluid under the skin, may develop near the bottom of the incision for a front leg amputation in the first two weeks running/jumping/climbing (into cars, upstairs, onto furniture) should all be prevented.

If any of the following conditions occurs please contact your private veterinarian or local emergency animal clinic immediately:

- Loss of appetite for more than two days.
- Refusal to drink water for more than 24 hours.
- Vomiting for more than 24 hours.
- Diarrhea for more than 24 hours.
- If the incision is open.

Please note, Dr. Kelly's Surgical Unit is not responsible for any costs associated with post-op veterinary care. Dr. Kelly's Surgical Unit will not reimburse you for any post-op veterinary care resulting from not following these instructions.

Please call Dr. Kelly's Surgical Unit if you have concerns. We will try to return your call in a timely manner, but we do not offer 24-hour emergency veterinary services. If you need emergency care, please consult your primary veterinarian or seek care at an Emergency Animal Hospital. Here is a list of hospitals that may be able to give you assistance:

Tucson Emergency Hospitals:

- VCA Valley @ 4984 E 22nd St, Tucson, AZ 85711, (520) 748-0331
- Southern Arizona Veterinary Central @ 141 E Fort Lowell Rd, Tucson, AZ 85705, (520) 888-3177
- Southern Arizona Veterinary East @ 7474 E. Broadway Blvd. Tucson, AZ 85710, (520) 888-3177
- Pima Pet Clinic @ 4832 E Speedway Blvd, Tucson, AZ 85712, (520) 327-5624
- VSCOT @ 4909 N La Cañada Dr, Tucson, AZ 85704, (520) 795-9955