



Post-operative handout for rabbits/guinea pigs and other small mammals

When you get home you should keep your pet quiet and comfortable. Your pet may have had a General anaesthetic or sedation; these can lower your pet’s body temperature so it is very important to keep your pet warm when you get them home. Your pet may be drowsy in the evening and possibly the next day.

Medication

Your pet has been prescribed the following medication:

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Please finish the course unless otherwise directed.

Wound care

Please be aware that during the warmer months of the year flies are attracted to wounds and therefore any wounds should be regularly checked and kept as clean as possible. You should check your pet’s wound a few times during the day, check for any signs of excessive swelling, discharge or redness. The wound site can be bathed with a tepid salt water solution.

It is extremely important that your pet does not chew at the suture area as this can cause the wound to open and will need to be re-sutured. If your pet is chewing let the surgery know straight away as your pet may need to be fitted with a preventative collar or protective shirt.

Feeding

You can feed your pet its normal diet immediately and provide plenty of fresh water. We recommend that all guinea pigs and rabbits have plenty of fresh grass or hay daily as their main staple diet. Fresh vegetables should also be added to their diet.

Monitor faeces

It is important to monitor your pet’s faeces output as after an anaesthetic they can suffer from Gut Stasis, which will stop them from going to the toilet. If you notice that your pet has not produced faeces or has not eaten within 24 hours of the anaesthetic please get in contact with the surgery.

Exercise

If your pet has had a sedative/general anaesthetic we recommend that they be housed indoors for the first 24 hours post operatively. If your pet is bedded on sawdust and has had an operation it is advisable to replace the sawdust with newspaper shreds to prevent sawdust from adhering to the wound.

Special instructions:

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We would like to see your pet again for a follow up appointment with the vet / nurse on:

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