

Surgery: Thyroidectomy for surgical removal of a tumor

Prognosis: The prognosis is pending the biopsy report which will be available in 1 week and your pet's surgeon will contact you about this.



Bowel movements: Your companion may not have a bowel movement for the next 4 days after surgery. If your companion does not have a bowel movement after 4 days or is straining to defecate, constipation may be present. Miralax at a dose of 1 teaspoon per 50 pounds body weight can be mixed in canned food (in each meal) as a laxative. If this treatment is not effective, we can prescribe other laxatives.

Exercise: Limit activity to short walks for the next 3 weeks. A harness is recommended instead of a neck lead during the first 3 weeks after surgery. Do not leave &&PTNAME off the leash outdoors during this time. No jumping, climbing stairs, or rough-housing with other pets or people during this time.

Convalescent period: By 7 to 10 days after the surgery, your pet should be feeling much better.

Diet: If your companion will not eat the regular diet, a home-made bland diet (50:50 mix of lean hamburger, chicken breast, lean turkey meat and a carbohydrate source such as rice, potato, or pasta) should be offered for 3 days and then wean back onto the regular diet over the next three days.

Cold therapy: Place a thin towel between the cold compress for patient comfort. Apply a cold compress (frozen peas or corn) to the surgical site three times daily, twenty minutes each time for the next three days. This therapy will reduce swelling, bruising and pain of the surgical site. It may be done more often than three times daily if needed.

Incision: A band aid covering the incision should be removed tomorrow. Please check the incision for signs of infection: redness, swelling, pain or discharge. Do not allow your pet to scratch at the incision; if this is noted, please wrap the neck with a scarf or return to us to have the neck bandaged. The most common occurrence after surgery is bruising and seroma formation, which will resolve with time.

Recheck: Due to Covid-19, telemedicine consultation will be done in lieu of a physical visit back to our hospital. Please email or text a photo of the incision to your pet's surgeon in 10 to 14 days from the time of surgery and provide a progress report. There are no external sutures that need to be removed. If your pet requires chemotherapy or radiation therapy, we will let you know once the biopsy report is available. We recommend a thyroid test to be performed by your primary care veterinarian in 1 month after surgery.

=====

Medications: Your companion has been prescribed a pain management protocol, which should be very effective. If your pet seems to be uncomfortable (whining, restless), the most common cause of this is that your pet needs to urinate. If your pet still seems painful, please give us a call.

Typical postop medication protocol prescribed at ASCM includes:

1. Nocita is a local anesthetic that is injected into the operated tissues at the time of surgery and provides pain relief for about 72 hours.
2. NSAID for 5 days. Examples of NSAID includes carprofen, meloxicam, deracoxib, and others
3. Antibiotic may or may not be prescribed
4. Tramadol to control pain – it is not a very strong pain killer in dogs, but does seem to have some effect.
5. Sedatives to help control your pet's activity in the postop period may or may not be needed. Trazodone is a mild sedative. Acepromazine is a stronger sedative.