

# How to...

... the correct handling of your animal after surgery

Please note that every anaesthesia, every metabolism and every surgery is unique. Therefore, we will inform you in a very detailed and individual way when you pick up your four-legged friend after surgery. Often the excitement is very high at this moment and therefore the information below can be used as memory aid. Unless discussed otherwise please note the following:

## Dog and cat:

Food:	Initially offer your pet a small portion of food in the late afternoon of the surgery day. If this remains in the stomach you can offer the normal amount of food spread over the evening. If not, try again 1-2 hours later. Nausea after anaesthesia may occur. Animals that normally eat dry food usually do it after dental restoration as well. If you have the impression that your animal is in pain, you can also offer wet food for some days or soften the dry food with water.
Water:	Your animal may drink as soon as it has regained full control of its body. It must be able to stand and walk normally.
Walking round:	On the day of surgery, it is enough if you take your dog out just in order to let it pass urine and faeces. During the first days afterwards small walking rounds are enough.
Wound:	You should look at the surgical wound once per day. If the wound is oozing, reddened, hot or swollen, please contact us. To avoid licking the wound we will equip your pet with a lick protector (usually it is a bodysuit). Some cats react to a bodysuit with petrification. They no longer like to move around and may not even go to the litter box. Usually, the problem is solved as soon the bodysuit can be taken off. If you are worried, please don't hesitate to contact us.
Environment:	Provide a quiet, restful environment. You are welcome to offer a warm resting place that your pet can go to if necessary to support the regulation of the body temperature.
Follow-up appointments:	We will arrange all required appointments with you when you pick up your pet.

**Rabbits and guinea pigs:**

Food:	Food, food, food, .... rodents need to eat again as soon as possible. Try to encourage it to eat independently with its favourite food. If this is not the case with your pet, please contact us immediately or bring your pet (outside our consultation hours) to the emergency service.
Water:	The water bowl may be available again when your pet has regained full control of its body. It must be able to stand and walk normally.
Wound:	You should look at the surgical wound twice per day. If the wound is oozing, reddened, hot or swollen please contact us. Especially in summer it is important to make sure that no flies get to the surgical wound in order to avoid egg deposition there.
Environment:	Do not separate the operated animal from the others because this means strong stress. Ideally, bring the partner animal to the surgery appointment, so you avoid disputes if one of the animals suddenly smells different. The bedding must be removed as good as possible. In large enclosures it is sufficient to set up a spacious sick corner which the rabbit can leave independently if necessary. Line the floor with soft towels. Hay may and should be available.
Follow-up appointments:	We will arrange all required appointments with you when you pick up your pet.

If you have any questions, doubts or would like to present your pet again please feel free to contact us.