



## Canine Cystotomy Post Operative Instructions

Your pet has undergone an extensive bladder surgery and needs to be treated with care and caution during recovery. The following list is a description of restrictions, care instructions and what to expect post-operatively.

If this is unclear or you have questions contact the clinic for further instruction.

(512) 428-6167 or [Surgery@vssaustin.com](mailto:Surgery@vssaustin.com)

1. **Pain Management:** This surgery is a painful procedure and pain management is a necessity. Continued pain control is necessary during your pets' recovery, the appropriate medications will be sent home post operatively. Be sure to administer these medications as directed and until all doses are finished. This will keep your pet comfortable and aid in a speedy. If you feel at any time the pain is not adequately controlled please contact the clinic.
2. **Antibiotics:** Your pet will be sent home with a course of antibiotics to prevent post-operative infection. Follow the prescribed schedule on the label. Finish all doses of medications to aid your pet in a speedy recovery.
3. **Exercise:** Your pet should be house confined following surgery. Short, leashed potty breaks to the front/backyard on a 4 ft.-6 ft. leash are approved. DO NOT use a retractable leash or long line leash. Be very careful on slick surfaces such as wood or tile floors your pet may need assistance to ensure they do not fall and sustain an injury. NO stairs, off leash activity, running, living outdoors, roughhousing, playing, jumping, or retractable leashes – these activities compromise your pets' surgical site and can result in slowed recovery. Activity needs to be restricted for a minimum of 2 weeks. If there are multiple pets in the home keep them separated during the recovery period.
4. **Feeding:** Your pet may have an upset stomach the night of surgery as a side effect of the medications used. Offer ¼ of the normal amount they are fed. If they do not want to eat do not force it. If they eat and vomit pull the food until tomorrow morning. If they eat and are able to hold down the food for an hour you may offer more in small increments throughout the night. Unless advised by the veterinary staff to feed a specific diet, it is best to offer the food your pet normally eats as to reduce the likelihood of an upset stomach due to a food change. When your pets' stone analysis has returned to the clinic we will call with further recommendations.
5. **Licking:** Licking at the incision site is NEVER OKAY. These actions prevent healing and can result in the opening and infection of the incision site. DO NOT allow housemates to lick or paw at the surgical site as this can result in costly postoperative complications. **It is imperative during recovery to keep your pets' e-collar on at ALL times**, even when they are in the kennel. The veterinary staff will advise at rechecks when it is okay to discontinue its use.
6. **Incision Site Care:** You should not need to clean the incision site; it heals best if left alone. Some bleeding and seeping in the first few days is to be expected, gentle pressure may be applied to the incision site with a clean towel or gauze. If you must clean the incision site use a small amount of dilute hydrogen peroxide and dab DO NOT wipe. No bathing or swimming for 14 days, the incision needs to remain dry. DO NOT apply any topical ointments, sprays, salves or bandages as this traps bacteria at the surgical site and can result in infection.
7. **Urination:** Following surgery it is common for your pet to urinate frequently, blood may be present for several days. Monitor urinary and bowel movements closely. If your pet appears to be making frequent attempts to urinate but failing to produce urine or is straining this is an emergency and you need to contact the clinic immediately.
8. **Rechecks:** Your pets' first re-check with Dr. Lewis will be 10-14 days following surgery. At this time sutures/staples may be removed and further instructions for activity restrictions will be given.
  - ✓ The stones retrieved will be sent to a lab for analysis.
  - ✓ Typically these results are returned to our clinic in 4-8 weeks.

- ✓ We will contact you with further recommendations after the stone analysis has been returned

Through physical examination Dr. Lewis will be able to evaluate and advise specific activity recommendations. If there is a discrepancy between the post op sheet and instructions you are given by the veterinary staff, please follow the instructions from the veterinary staff as they will have the most current recommendations for your pet.

Below are tips and tentative recovery schedule following a **Cystotomy**:

**Weeks 1-2:** The first week after surgery will be the most painful for your pet. Please follow prescription instructions closely, as they will help to reduce pain and inflammation and prevent infection. It is imperative to restrict activity during the recovery period. Following a cystotomy expect that our pet will need to urinate more frequently than normal and may suffer from a period of incontinence.

- ✓ Allow plenty of opportunities to go out for bathroom breaks.
- ✓ Lay down puppy training pads indoors to help cut down on accidents.
- ✓ Leashed potty breaks for dogs using a 4 ft. – 6 ft. **DO NOT** use a retractable leash or allow your pet off leash in the yard.
- ✓ If there are multiple pets in the household it is best to keep them separate during the first 2 weeks of recovery. This will help with tracking urinary/bowel movements and aid in preventing postoperative complications.
- ✓ No exercise for the first 14 days after surgery. Keep activity to a minimum. **NO** stairs, off leash activity, running, living outdoors, roughhousing, playing, jumping, or retractable leashes – these activities compromise your pets' surgical site and result in slowed recovery
- ✓ Your pet need to be kept **STRICTLY** indoors for a minimum of 30 days.
- ✓ If you have slick floors in your house such as tile or hardwood, be careful after surgery that your pet does not slip and fall. This is especially important the night you arrive home from surgery, as the sedatives may effect your pet's coordination.
- ✓ Monitor urinary and bowel movements closely. Keep track of whether there is blood present in the urine, a strong odor, color, and the amount of urine.
- ✓ **If your pet is not able to urinate after surgery this is an emergency, contact the clinic IMMEDIATELY.**
- ✓ No bathing during this time, the incision site needs to remain dry.

**Weeks 3-4:** Following the first recheck most pets are free to resume normal activity.

- ✓ Your pet will still need to be strictly indoors at all times.
- ✓ Typically with a cystotomy only one recheck with our clinic is necessary unless complications arise. .
- ✓ When the lab returns the stone analysis we will be able to contact you with further recommendations. A copy of this report will be sent to your full service veterinarian to aid in assessing what diet is best for your pet to prevent reoccurrences.
- ✓ Your full service veterinarian will be able to provide further diet needs and continued care following your pets' recovery.

***After a successful surgery, owner compliance is the most important factor in recovery.***

**Please be careful and patient with your pet during this time.**

**Following these instructions closely will promote a speedy recovery for your pet.**