

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER YOUR PET'S SOFT TISSUE SURGERY

A successful surgical outcome relies almost entirely on what happens after surgery.

The recovery period for most soft tissue procedures is around 2-4 weeks. Each patient is of course unique and circumstances will vary from one pet to the next. Typically skin sutures/staples will be removed at 10 to 14 days after surgery.

Depending on the severity of your pet's surgical procedure his or her recovery will require different restrictions. Please refer to your pet's post-operative instructions for that specific information.

Some basic rules of thumb for all surgical patients:

- 1. The incision should be clean and dry.** *No licking or disturbing of the incision as this can lead to infection or delayed healing.* An Elizabethan collar (lampshade type collar) should be fitted to your pet at the dismissal appointment. It should be worn at all times until the skin sutures/staples are removed. Cool compresses may be applied for 5 to 10 minutes 2-3 times daily for the first 3-5 days following surgery.
- 2. Restricted activity means no running, jumping or uncontrolled activity.** Your pet should be taken out to use the bathroom on a leash. He/She should not be allowed on or off of furniture as per the post-operative instructions. Your pet should be kept in a crate or small room with nothing to jump on or off of as directed in your post-operative instructions.
- 3. We strive to keep your pet as pain free as possible so please make sure you give all pain medications as directed.**
- 4. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact tvss or your veterinarian.**