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Post-Op Ex-Lap Surgery Handout

Thank you for choosing Avonhead Vets to complete an exploratory (ex-lap) surgery procedure on your beloved dog – we can assure you, we have taken every precaution to ensure they have received the best care and treatment, while they have been with us today 😊.

Removal of an object that has been ingested and then became lodged to cause partial or complete intestinal obstruction is probably the most common indication for intestinal surgery. Many different types of foreign bodies (FB) can be ingested by dogs and cats. Young, playful or curious dogs are at risk.



Clinical signs of obstruction include:

- Dehydration
- Vomiting
- Anorexia (not wishing to eat)
- Lethargy
- Diarrhoea
- Sometimes abdominal pain

More proximal (further down) obstructions will cause more persistent vomiting, with rapid dehydration and electrolyte losses. Patients with distal (higher up) foreign bodies show less profuse vomiting, more intestinal fluid and gas sequestration, bacterial overgrowth and a slower decline in overall status.

Palpation may reveal abdominal tenderness, and possibly a mass (in case of intestinal obstruction by a sizeable object). Diagnosis is usually confirmed with radiography. *Radiopaque* objects containing metal, porcelain, bone, or dense rubber are easily diagnosed. *Non-radiopaque* obstructing objects classically demonstrate dilated loops of bowel (unless a very proximal obstruction).



Immediate surgical intervention is indicated for complete intestinal obstructions or intestinal perforation. The prognosis is considered excellent when there is no evidence of perforation. If perforation occurred, the prognosis depends on the severity of peritonitis (infection inside the abdomen).

“We understand the special role your pets play in your family. It is our aim to preserve that relationship by providing the best in veterinary medicine, delivered with compassion, integrity and good old-fashioned care.”

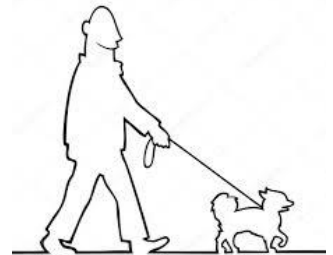
FEEDING PLAN POST SURGERY?

If there has been no vomiting overnight please start feeding your dog, small bland meals from the morning 3-4 times daily. Please remember, your dog has just had a big procedure on their gastrointestinal system, so we want to take it easy and allow healing. The faeces can be **expected to gradually return to normal over the course of about one week.**

Small meals and a bland diet are easier for them to digest. We recommended diets like Hills Prescription I/D canned food or Royal Canin Gastrointestinal canned food. Offer water to drink as required. Please feed this diet exclusively until the revisit. Do not feed any treats or dry food until your veterinarian advises it is safe to do so. Bones or chews should be avoided for at least one month following intestinal or gastric surgery.

RECOVERY POST SURGERY

Home care consists of giving all prescribed medications, following the instructions on this handout. Exercise restriction whilst healing, ideally only lead walking to toilet. Checking your dog's incision site at least once a day for swelling and discharge. You should report to us if you notice a loss of appetite, signs of depression, and changes in the incision to us. Skin sutures will need to be removed by our team at their post-op check-up.



You should take precautions to prevent your dog from ingesting other foreign bodies. This includes feeding no bones to your dogs, removing all toys small enough to be swallowed, taking steps to keep your pet from raiding the garbage can, and placing all strings, needles, and fishhooks etc out of your pet's reach.

PLEASE CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY IF:

- Your dog starts vomiting, strains to defecate or will not eat.
- Your dog seems dehydrated, depressed or lethargic.
- There is any drainage, swelling, heat or breakdown of the incision.
- There is any overall change in the health of your pet.

Should you have any enquiries or further concerns about the post-operative care of your dog, please do not hesitate to phone us at (03) 358 4407 to discuss.

We hope they have a smooth recovery and get well soon!

WARMEST WISHES, THE TEAM AT AVONHEAD VETERINARY CLINIC

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