

Preparing Your Pet for Surgery

Just like you'd prepare yourself for surgery, you'll need to help your pet get ready for theirs. Getting them ready, and having a post-surgery plan from your vet will help ensure a safe and comfortable recovery.



Get more tips and advice on how to keep your pet happy and healthy on zoetispetcare.com

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Before Surgery

☐ Questions for Your Vet

- What medications are needed for pain management after surgery?
- Does my pet need medication to help deal with anesthesia-related vomiting?
- Will they need antibiotics post-surgery?
- What are the possible side effects from anesthesia and post-op medications?
- Will there be any kind of activity restrictions?
- How do I prevent my pet from licking or chewing their incision?
- Will follow-up appointments be needed, and, if so, on what schedule?

☐ Monitor Their Food and Water Intake

Based on your vet's recommendations you may have to withhold food, water, and potentially certain medications, for a specified time before the surgery.

☐ Help Lower the Risk of Infection by Bathing Your Pet Pre-Op and Washing Their Bedding

☐ If Needed, Purchase a Cone or "Doughnut" Collar

Depending on your pet's type of surgery, your vet may recommend a cone (e-collar) or doughnut collar, that prevents them from licking/chewing their incision post-surgery.

☐ Set Up a Quiet and Comfortable Place for Your Pet to Recover

☐ Transportation Post-Surgery

Make a plan for getting your pet in and out of your vehicle. If instructed to avoid jumping, and if you can't lift them by yourself, recruit a friend/family member, or get a pet ramp.

After Surgery

☐ Follow Your Vet's Feeding Instructions

- Tell your vet if your pet isn't eating, or is vomiting.
- Avoid any sudden diet changes or new foods for a few weeks after surgery (unless recommended by your vet).

☐ Follow Your Vet's Medication Instructions

- Finish the whole prescription even if your pet seems like they're feeling better.
- Call your vet with any concerns over side effects from their medication(s), or if you think they're still experiencing pain despite medication.

☐ Complete Any Follow-up Appointments

Ensure your pet's recovery is progressing as expected by meeting with your vet.

☐ Call Your Vet With Any Concerns

If your pet's incision isn't healing properly, or you're having trouble restricting their activity – your vet should be able to give you some solutions.