

FEEDING YOUR PET

Your dog or cat **isn't going to feel much like eating** but **quality nutrition is important** as it provides energy for **recovery; for tissue repair; to support the immune system** and to **support drug metabolism**.

A CHOICE OF DIETS FROM SPECIFIC TO SUPPORT PATIENTS FOLLOWING SURGERY



F/C-IN-W & F/C-IN-L Intensive support | FIW Cat Digestive Support Wet | CIW Dog Digestive Support Wet

- **Highly digestible and with high content of essential nutrients to ensure sufficient nutrients** even with reduced appetite.
- **Added beta-glucans and Omega-3** from fish for **immune support**.
- **Zinc and beta-glucans** also support **wound healing**

ADDITIONALLY FOR F/C-IN-W & F/C-IN-L **INTENSIVE SUPPORT**

- **Excellent palatability** to encourage eating.
- **Liquid diet choice** to support assisted feeding.

TIPS FOR FEEDING

- Feed small amounts
- Serve food at room temperature or even slightly warm – it's even more palatable that way.
- If assisted feeding is needed then liquid diets are useful

You may hear of suggestions for a bland diets of rice and chicken. **The problem is chicken and rice alone are not nutritionally balanced, nor sufficiently high in energy** and so won't provide the best nutritional support for your pet's recovery.

POST OPERATIVE CARE NOTES

EXPECTED PERIOD OF DROWSINESS

EXERCISE

MEDICATION 1

(include name, type, frequency and route of administration)

MEDICATION 2

(include name, type, frequency and route of administration)

MEDICATION 3

(include name, type, frequency and route of administration)

THINGS TO WATCH OUT FOR

FOLLOW UP APPOINTMENT(S)

DATE	TIME

OUT OF HOURS VET CONTACT NUMBER



Taking care of your dog or cat
before and after surgery



BEFORE GOING TO THE SURGERY

It is likely that you will be asked to **not feed your pet after 10pm the night before the surgery** but this can vary so you should check with your vet or vet nurse.

They will usually be allowed access to water up until 7am on the morning of their surgery.

The reason for this period of fasting is safety - food in the stomach increases the risk of vomiting during the operation and inhaling food into their lungs.

If you have more than one dog or cat make sure that they can't help themselves to the others food and with cats, keep them in overnight so they can't catch themselves a mouse - it will also make it easier in the morning if your cat is already safely indoors.

Before you set off for the surgery encourage them to go to the toilet - for dogs a short walk will normally do the trick and for cats try taking them to the litter tray.

AT THE SURGERY

You will probably be asked to **arrive at the surgery early** - this is to allow time for your vet to assess your pet and for any pre anaesthetic medications to work.

At this point it's important that you talk to the person in charge of admissions. If you have any questions or worries, now is the time to ask. Listen carefully to any advice they give.

You may want to ask about doing other procedures, such as nail clipping, that are more easily done when they are asleep.

If you think you have noticed any differences or changes to your pet then now is the time to mention them. It may be nothing but it's better that the vet knows.

If, despite your best efforts, you think your pet has managed to sneak some food it is vital that you say something. You may feel embarrassed about it but these things happen and it's **important for the safety of your pet that the vet knows.**

Your vet may suggest a pre-anaesthetic blood test for older animals or animals with more complicated problems. This helps the vet to assess anaesthetic risk and decide if any additional support, such as intravenous fluids, will be needed.

Leave a number that you can be reached on and take a note of when and who to phone for a progress report.

You are now fine to leave your pet in their capable hands.



WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY PET AT THE SURGERY?

Your pet will be weighed, so they can calculate the exact drug dose, and will receive a full pre anesthetic examination.

Most will be given a medication prior to their surgery. This provides mild sedation and pain relief.

Whilst under anaesthesia your pet will be unconscious and unaware of the surgery. **They will also be given painkillers to ensure they are not in pain as they wake up from anaesthesia** and you will often be given further pain killers to give them at home.

Whilst under anaesthesia your pet should be continuously monitored by a qualified veterinary nurse or vet who will complete a written anaesthetic record. **They will measure things such as heart and respiration rate and temperature.** They may also use extra electronic monitoring such as blood pressure, capnography and pulse oximetry to gain additional information. **Don't be afraid to ask what equipment your practice uses for anaesthetic monitoring.** They will also be monitored closely in the recovery period as they are waking up from anaesthesia.

PICKING UP YOUR PET

Your dog may struggle to climb into the car and you may need to lift them in. If you need help doing that try and take someone with you.

At this point you will be given very important advice and information on feeding, exercise, medications, post-operative care, what to expect and what follow up appointments are needed, **so make sure that you allow plenty of time.**

It's understandable that you will be keen to see your pet but it's better if you spend time with the vet or nurse, alone, before you collect them. It's better to have this conversation without distractions.

In the back of this booklet is a **space for you to write down notes** on this advice.

BACK AT HOME WITH YOUR PET

Post-operative care will depend on your pet and the type of surgery they have received but some basics are...

- **Monitor your pet for signs of pain.** Be aware that cats can display pain by simply being more quiet than usual and not moving around.
- **Often you will be given pain killers** to give your pet at home, make sure you give these as instructed. If you are concerned that your pet is in pain do not hesitate to ask your vet about further pain relief.
- **Do not use human pain killers** as some very commonly used human medications can be dangerous to cats and dogs.
- **Your pet may be drowsy for a while.** Ask your vet or nurse what to expect so you know what's normal and what isn't.
- Give your pet a **warm quiet place to recover.**
- **Exercise will need to be restricted** for at least 24 hours but maybe longer. Cats should be kept indoors and dogs limited to short walks on the lead.
- **Check the wound daily.** It is important to prevent them licking or chewing at the wound so use any collars, dressings, body suits or other devices that you have been given to help with this. If the wound looks swollen or red or showing signs of discharge then contact your vet.
- **If they are bandaged these need to be kept clean and dry.** Check the bandages for any swelling above or below or seepage or discharge - if you see any of these contact your vet.
- **If you have been given any medication make sure you complete the course.**
- **You will not always be given antibiotics,** these are often not needed for routine, uncomplicated surgery.

