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.