



C-Section Post Op Care Sheet

Knowing what to do or expect after your pet has had her c-section can be a challenging thing, therefore we have created this sheet to help you with some basic do's and don'ts for when you take your beloved pet home.

Care for the mother:

- Do NOT give food or water to your pet for 5 hours after surgery. The anaesthetic can make them feel nauseous and we do not want them to vomit as this could cause them to choke. They are put on intravenous fluids during their operation to keep them hydrated.
- Do NOT overheat the car, your pet will lose body heat and we need to be kept warm but not to excessively.
- Keep the wound dry and clean, this will speed up the healing process and reduce the risk of infection.
- Do attend your 3 - 5-day post op appointment and your 10 – 14 days if required, it is essential that we check them over. Speak to your vet regarding the stitches as they may be dissolvable and may not need to be removed. Avoid bathing them for 2 weeks post op.
- Do follow your veterinarian's advice regarding medication, this will be clearly labelled with instructions and you will be shown on your animal's discharge.
- Do NOT allow them to exert themselves, limit exercise and do not allow them to jump for 4 weeks as this could cause the stitches to open and cause a hernia.
-

Mom and her puppies should be monitored closely for the first 24 hours; you will need to ensure that the puppies are latching on and feeding properly and that she does not reject or try to harm any of the pups, it may take a while for her hormones to kick in.

It is normal for her to bleed from the vulva for several weeks post op. The discharge or blood will be a dark red colour with little odour.

Signs to look out for:

- Vomiting, Diarrhoea, unwillingness to eat, excessive pain.
- Redness, green, yellow discharge, or foul odour smell from the stitches
- Drowsiness that lasts longer than 24 hours post op.
- Swollen, hot or red teats. This may be a sign that the dog has mastitis and will need to be treated ASAP.
- Pale gum colour.... if you press on the gums and let go the pink should return in less than 2 seconds

Care for puppies:

- Ensure they have a suitable sleeping area container this should be warm and safe. Puppies need to be warm but take extra care not to scald the puppies (never use boiling water and test heat lamps to ensure they are not too close).
- Keep the area very clean as new-borns are very prone to infections. Most moms will feed the pups and clean them straight afterwards, ensuring they leave no mess behind but if they do, be sure to clean the area regularly to prevent any infections occurring. (You can use puppy pads as an easy way to keep the area clean).
- For the first 24 hours, be sure to check that every 1 to 2 hours that the new-borns are feeding. New-borns will need pass their first bowel movement; this is called



meconium. This can be a little uncomfortable for them so you can help by stimulating them.

- Check the umbilical cords are clean, it is normal for the mom to 'nibble' these off but be cautious that she isn't too rough or makes them bleed.

If you have any concerns regarding mom or her pups, please do not hesitate to contact us on **Telephone: 01902 766905** **Email: info@tudorhouseanimalcare.co.uk**