

Post-Operative Care

Your guinea pig has undergone the following procedure under sedation/general anaesthetic:

Your guinea pig should be awake, alert and eating by the time he/she comes home, but we also advise the following to assist him/her to a quick and full recovery:

- Keep your guinea pig warm and quiet overnight.
- Keep indoors for the next _____ day(s).
- Cage rest your guinea pig for the next _____ day(s)/week(s).
- Feed a tempting meal if appetite appears reduced, as often occurs post anaesthesia/surgery. Fresh grass or herbs are often appreciated.

Your vet may have prescribed the following medications to aid appetite:

- **Maxolon Paediatric Drops** - this is a gut stimulant and _____mls should be given by mouth every six to twelve hours until your guinea pig is eating 100% normally and defaecating 100% normally starting at _____ today.
- **Metacam** - this is a painkiller and _____ drops should be given once daily by mouth starting at _____ on _____.
- **Avipro Powder** - this is a probiotic to help correct gut function and should be added to your guinea pig's drinking water at the stress dose for the next few days. Flavouring the water with apple, blackcurrant or carrot juice can aid palatability. *A complimentary sachet is provided for you today.*

★ Important Warning ★

If your guinea pig does not eat or pass droppings after returning home, please contact us for advice on **01722 333291** the next morning.

- Use the eye drops provided to moisten your guinea pig's eyes over the next twenty-four hours.
- Give any additional medications carefully following the instructions on the label(s).
- Make sure your guinea pig has comfortable bedding, eg: clean towels or drybed on top of newspapers.

Wound and Dressing Care:

- Check the operation site two to three times daily to check that your guinea pig has not interfered with it or removed any stitches, staples or dressings. If you notice any smell, redness, discharge or swelling, contact us to arrange a check up appointment.
- A Buster collar or post-op coat must be used if your guinea pig tries to interfere with any wounds, dressings, drains or stitches (see Buster Collar section).
- Dressings must be kept dry (see Dressings section).
- Wounds may be closed using a variety of techniques, some of which look completely invisible! However, if your guinea pig has skin stitches or staples these will need removing in _____ days.

Dressings

- Success of your guinea pig's treatment depends on good care of a dressing. Further charges will be made for dressing changes.
- Dressings must be kept dry. **Temporarily** a plastic bag can be used for this purpose when outside. **Never** leave on.
- If you notice any swelling or soreness around the dressing, please contact the surgery.
- If you notice any signs of sudden discomfort, please contact the surgery.
- If you notice any discharge or sudden smell from the dressing, please contact the surgery.
- If the dressing slips, please make an appointment as soon as possible as it may need replacing. Due to having fur, this is a common complication of dressing applications in guinea pigs.

Buster Collars

Success of your guinea pig's treatment relies on your guinea pig not interfering with any wounds, dressings, drains or stitches; complications can arise if you fail to stop interference.

- Some guinea pigs may "sulk" or panic when a collar is first applied, but will adjust in a short while, especially if distracted with tasty titbits.
- Guinea pigs will be unable to gauge the extra width of their head and so will bump into furniture and door openings.
- Raise your guinea pig's water and feeding bowls if necessary. Only in a **minority** of cases is it necessary to remove the collar to allow your guinea pig to eat. If this is the case, **do not** leave your guinea pig unattended until it is replaced.
- Groom your guinea pig daily, including wiping the face and eyes, whilst it is wearing a Buster Collar.
- Clean the collar regularly.
- Keep guinea pigs indoors whilst wearing a Buster Collar.
- Allow your guinea pig supervised access to its soft faecal pellets - it is essential that these can be eaten to maintain health.

The size of collar recommended for your guinea pig is:

(Obtainable from Reception)

Other Information

Always contact the surgery if your guinea pig does not seem well - it is better to check than ignore possible problems.

Your next appointment is:

With: _____

On: _____

At: _____

If you have any queries, including emergency queries outside normal working hours, please contact us on **01722 333291**.



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Quick Reference Guide



Endell Veterinary Group

49 Endless Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 3UH

Tel: 01722-333291 Fax: 01722-338778

www.endellveterinarygroup.co.uk